THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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**HAL RECEIVES FIRST PVT SECTOR-MADE REAR FUSELAGE FOR LCA MK1A**

The rear fuselage for Light Combat Aircraft Mk1A, produced by private firm Alpha Tocol Engineering, was handed over to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Bengaluru on Sunday

Singh termed the handing over as a milestone in India's defence manufacturing

Already manufactured 12 LCA MK1A rear fuselages, which are on the aircraft in the manufacturing line

With this supply, a major structure module produced by an Indian private partner will be integrated into the LCA Mk1A aircraft, enabling HAL to meet additional delivery commitments for IAF from 2025-26 onwards | P7

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# FROM DUBAI WITH LOVE

## Rohit and Co beat Black Caps to win their first 50-over ICC trophy in 12 years

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

The Indian team celebrates after winning the ICC Champions Trophy in Dubai on Sunday | AFP

THIS generational team finally has global gold to rubber-stamp their status as the greatest ODI side this country has known. Rohit Sharma, three-and-a-half-years after he was entrusted with the task of bringing about a cultural reset, has now two ICC titles, the only Indian captain apart from M S Dhoni, who won three, to do so.

It's significant because for all the cricketing commerce they had commanded, the trophy cabinet hadn't kept pace. From 1984, about the time when the the country began to learn the spelling of the sport, till the beginning of 2024, this team had three ICC crowns (excluding the one shared with Sri Lanka). You can count all those near misses but finishing second best is no good when you are — or want to be — the apex predator (the walls of the Louvre are adorned with some of the greatest artists but there's a halo around Da Vinci).

India have gone big since last June. Tournaments across formats in three continents have now resulted in two of the biggest prizes this sport has to offer. It's important to state here they had an advantage over each of the other seven teams in the tournament. Even if coach Gautam Gambhir labelled them as 'cribbers', India are the only team who were afforded the luxury of picking a squad for one venue (pacer Mohammed Shami himself called it an 'advantage'). But they have maximised the conditions on offer.

After the spinners restricted the Black Caps to 251 on one of the better Dubai surfaces, their batters, predictably found gaps in the Matt Henry-shaped hole that was the Kiwi bowling. What was so striking about India's march to the final, and the win under the stadium's imposing Ring of Fire, was the absurd lack of jeopardy. The last two finals have become balms to address the permenant heartache of 2023. Some dopamine to address a battered mind, body and soul. P13

**MAESTRO'S PRIDE OF PLACE**

Legendary music director Ilaiyaraaja's 'Valiant', the first ever Western classical symphony by an Indian composer, debuted at London's Eventim Apollo Theatre on Sunday. The maestro was joined by Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. The music was conducted by Mikel Toms | X | P9

# Koppal horror: Third accused picked up in TN

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Koppal

THE third accused in the rape and murder of tourists at Sanapur, near Hampi, was secured from Tamil Nadu. The Koppal police traced the accused, Sai Ram (23), to Tamil Nadu and picked him up with the help of TN police. A Koppal police team is bringing him back to the district.

On Thursday night, the three accused raped two women, including an Israeli tourist, and pushed three other male tourists into the flowing Tungabhadra canal. While Bibash, a 22-year-old tourist from Odisha, drowned, the other two tourists swam back to safety.

The Koppal police had formed six teams to trace the accused and swiftly apprehended two, Mallesh and Chetan Sai, while the third had gone missing after the arrest of two others.

Police sources said the state government is keenly monitoring the case and Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara will meet senior officials from Koppal and Vijayanagara districts in Bengaluru this week.

Koppal district in-charge minister Shivaraj Tangadagi said, "People should not go to some places at night. Areas like Sanapur have leopards and sloth bears which are dangerous to people. I have have told officials to fix CCTV cameras in areas that have legal resorts and are frequented by tourists. We have instructed officials to check places where local people rent out houses to tourists."

SECURITY TO BE TIGHTENED: P7

# Oppn sharpens knives as Parl session begins today

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

WITH the Opposition set to corner the Centre on the alleged manipulation of electoral rolls, Waqf Bill, delimitation and the Trump administration's tariff claims, the Parliament session starting Monday is likely to be rocky.

The session may also see a showdown over the Waqf Amendment Bill, which the government is looking to pass in this session. Last week, the Union cabinet approved 14 amendments proposed by a joint parliamentary committee. Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said INDIA bloc leaders will hold consultation with other parties to oppose the Waqf bill.

Another issue that may rock the session is the duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Card numbers. The TMC has taken the lead in flagging the issue, following which the Election Commission said it would take corrective measures within three months.

The Opposition will also raise the issue of fresh violence in Manipur, as Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to move a statutory resolution seeking Parliament approval for President's Rule in Manipur.

Jairam Ramesh said Congress will raise the threat of reciprocal tariffs by US President Donald Trump and called for a bipartisan collective resolve to deal with the threats.

The second leg of the Budget session will end on April 4.

EXPRESS READ

**Teen boy, girl found hanging from tree in Kalaburagi dist**

Kalaburagi: A boy and girl, studying in Class 10 at a government high school at Yadrami taluk of Kalaburagi district, hanged themselves on Saturday morning. The bodies of the boy from a BC community and the girl from a minority community were found hanging from a tree from a single rope | P5

**5 die as car rams stationary truck near Chitradurga**

Chitradurga: Five people from Bengaluru died on the spot when their car rammed a stationary truck on the Pune-Bengaluru National Highway 48 on the outskirts of Chitradurga city on Sunday. The deceased were returning to Bengaluru from Belagavi. Another person sustained grievous injuries | P5

**After 16 days, body retrieved from Srisailam tunnel**

Hyderabad: After 16 days of operations at Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLB) tunnel, rescue teams retrieved a dead body on Sunday. The officials identified the deceased as Gurpreet Singh (40), an erector operator. He was from Punjab. The operator's body was washed away down stream due to the water flow | P7

# Coming soon: Kanniyakumari to Kashmir train

B ANBUSELVAN @ Chennai

RAIL passengers, tourists and pilgrims from Tamil Nadu will soon be able to make an affordable and seamless train journey to the picturesque valleys of Kashmir.

The Southern Railway is planning to introduce the Amrit Bharat Express that will connect either Kanniyakumari, the southernmost town of India, or Rameswaram, the tip of the Indian peninsula, to Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir. The new train service would run for a length of over 4,000 kilometres.

The Amrit Bharat rake has a high-speed push-pull configuration, equipped with engines at both ends, capable of reaching speeds of up to 130 kmph. It has been designed to offer Vande Bharat-like comfort for non-AC passengers.

This initiative comes as the 111-km Katra-Banihal section, the last leg of the 272-km Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project, is set to be inaugurated next month.

At present, the only way for visitors from the state to reach Kashmir is either by road or by air.

Describing the proposal as an ambitious project of the Southern Railway, official sources revealed to *TNIE* that, "At the policy level, the decision has been taken to provide a train link to Srinagar/Baramulla either from Kanniyakumari or Rameswaram. A Vande Bharat trial run from New Delhi to Srinagar was conducted recently and the line is likely to be thrown open for operation soon. The decision on introducing the AB Express from Kanniyakumari/Rameswaram to Srinagar will be finalised once the line is inaugurated."

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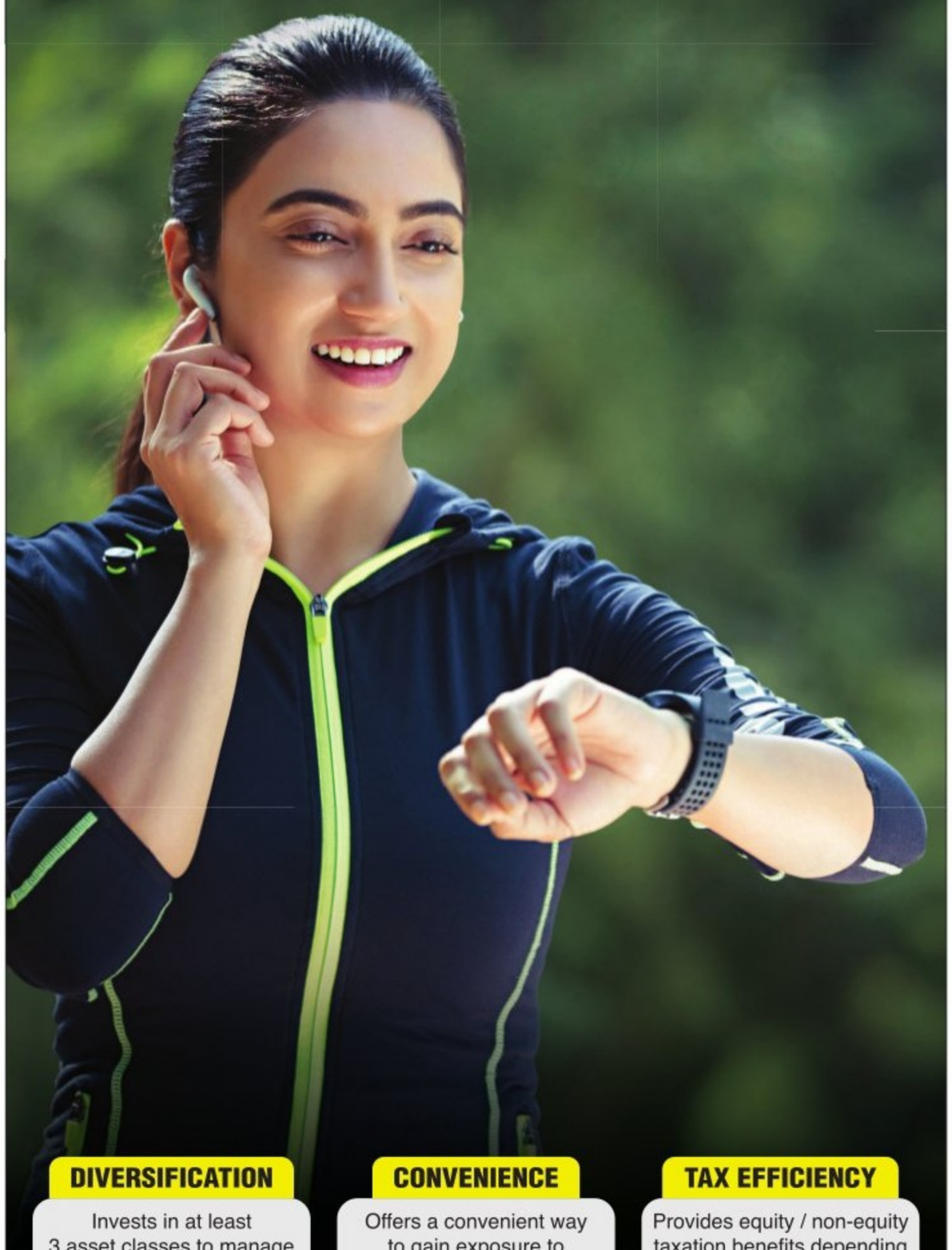

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THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

# BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
Monday: 10.03.2025 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Uttarayana
Ritu: Sishira • Masa: Phalguna • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Ekadasi 9.38 am
Nakshatra: Pushyami 2.17 am • Moon in Simha Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 16°C | MAX 32°C
FORECAST
Afternoon clouds.

Sunrise 06.30 am
Sunset 06.29 pm
Moonrise 03.21 pm
Moonset 03.43 am

Autos and cabs crowd Station Road, outside Cantonment Railway Station

# AUTO, CAB DRIVERS FLEECE PASSENGERS AT CANTT RLY STN

## Mislead them about platform access for VB

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

TRAVELLING on the Vande Bharat Express may excite the public, but for passengers at Bengaluru Cantonment Station, it is a struggle. With construction delays at the main entrance on Station Road and two Vande Bharat Express trains operating from this side, afternoons descend into complete chaos. Neither railway officials nor police are around, allowing auto and cab drivers to have a field day extorting passengers by misleading them.

Of the seven Vande Bharat trains that run via the Bengaluru Division, two depart from Cantonment station six days a week -- one to Coimbatore (2.20pm) and another to Madurai via Trichy (1.30pm). They leave from platforms 1B, 1C, 1D and 1E, the relatively newer ones, which extend from PF1. The tiny passage leading to these platforms is located less than 100 metres to the left of the closed main entrance, with small signage printouts pasted here. However, many passengers miss them.

Confusion reigns on Station Road between 1pm and 2.30pm as both the Vande Bharat trains depart and over 800 passengers reach here with no assistance available outside.

This reporter spent an afternoon at Cantonment Station recently. In one instance, a mother, her teenage son and daughter alighted from a cab on Station Road around 1.30pm to take the Vande Bharat to Coimbatore. Auto drivers swarmed around them and misled them about the location of the platform for the train. "One of us can drop you for Rs 150. You might miss the train if you try walking as it is far," one driver lied. This reporter showed the family how close the entry actually was. As passengers alighted, auto drivers kept misinforming them.

A railway source told TNIE, "The bigger exploitation happens at the other entry. Many auto and cab drivers who ferry passengers assume that trains operate from the back entry (Millers Road side) due to construction work on the main road, and drop them there and leave. Auto drivers based at the station tell the public that the Vande Bharat Express starts from the other side, which is correct. But they charge them anywhere between Rs 300 and Rs 500 to reach PF1 entry which is just 2km away, and deliberately take a detour."

Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru, Amitesh Kumar Sinha told TNIE, "We are aware of the issues public are facing due to lack of proper signage at Bengaluru Cantonment Station. We are working on redressing them. As an immediate step, we will display the signage prominently. I will also ensure that Railway Protection Force staff are posted there immediately."

# In just 4 months, over 2.8k B'lureans test food at FDA kiosks

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

IN slightly over four months, 2,869 people used the rapid food testing kiosks set up by the then Food Safety and Standards Department, now renamed as the Food Safety and Drug Administration Department (FDA), in ten malls in the city — a number FDA officials consider low given the high footfall at these malls. The initiative also included awareness campaigns, which reached over 16,200 people, on food safety and adulteration risks.

The self-testing, done by consumers to test around 2,869 food samples, showed 'no adulteration' in any of the items, which officials say is a positive sign. However, they also pointed out that the absence of adulteration might lead people to question whether the kiosks are functioning properly, further affecting participation.

Elements Mall in Thanisandra recorded the highest number of testing samples, with 1,033 analysed and 4,258 people participating in awareness activities. It was followed by Meenakshi Mall with 359 samples tested and Phoenix Mall of Asia, where the inauguration of these food safety kiosks was held, with 299 samples.

The department had set up these kiosks on October 24, equipped with rapid tests and a magic box, to help the public

check the quality of everyday food items. Rapid tests use quick chemical reactions to detect common adulterants, while the magic box is an FSSAI-designed portable kit containing multiple test tools for on-the-spot food safety checks. With these safety kits at malls, people could test the quality of pulses, sugar, cooking oil, tea powder, salt, dairy products like milk, ghee, paneer and butter as well as vegetables, coriander powder, drinking water, and other essentials. An FSSAI-trained worker was also appointed at each kiosk to conduct the tests.

An FDA official managing one of the kiosks told TNIE that most visitors were primarily interested in testing the quality of their pulses. After pulses, ghee samples were the most commonly tested. "Initially, there was curiosity among the public, as they expected these tests to provide a detailed report on what they were consuming. However, when they realised the process involved only basic checks, the footfall reduced. Maybe people are conducting similar tests at home as these just require everyday things to check," the official said.

As per consumers and shoppers, the initiative was not marketed effectively, which they said could have resulted in low public participation. Many shoppers were either unaware of the kiosks or not interested in visiting them as they had to purchase things from outside and then perform the checks at the mall.

**UNITED WE STAND**

More than 100 people, led by the Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union, gather at Freedom Park to advocate a healthy work-life balance in the IT sector, in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EXPRESS READ

### Lalitha Kala Academy announces art competition

Bengaluru: For the first time in its 60-year history, the Karnataka Lalitha Kala Academy announced an art competition exclusively for students, providing them with a platform to showcase their artistic talents. Students from any level of study at art schools across Karnataka are eligible to participate. The last date for submission of applications is April 30. Applicants must submit two photographs of their artwork along with a verification letter from their institution's principal. The application process will be conducted online through Google Forms and documents must be uploaded via the academy's official website. For more details, students can contact 080-22480297. Selected students will get an opportunity to attend an art camp at a scenic location.

# B'luru's first pre-monsoon showers here soon, but dry weather to persist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AFTER a series of hot days in Bengaluru, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted the first pre-monsoon showers of the year on March 11 and 12. However, this relief will be short-lived, as the weather agency forecasts a harsh summer ahead.

Bengaluru has been experiencing soaring temperatures, crossing 34 degree Celsius for the last three days. On Friday, the city recorded its hottest day at 34.6 degree Celsius, followed by 34.4 degree Celsius on Sunday afternoon, according to the IMD. Friday's temperature was notably 1.9 degree Celsius above the seasonal average, marking a significant rise in heat levels.

With the onset of summer, a man waters plants at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath in Bengaluru | ALLEN EGENUSEJ

As per the IMD forecast, Bengaluru is expected to face harsh weather even today (Monday) and despite pre-monsoon showers the summer is set to remain harsh with temperatures expected to rise to 39 degree Celsius between April and mid-May, with a possible decline predicted only from the third week of May, said Director of IMD CS Patil.

Areas like Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Kalaburagi, Koppal will also witness rising temperatures at 45 degree Celsius, 2-4 degree Celsius above normal temperature, the IMD officials mentioned and added coastal Karnataka is expected to follow a typical heat wave pattern similar to last year.

"Due to a weather system forming over Tamil Nadu, isolated light showers may provide some relief to South Interior Karnataka, including Bengaluru, on March 11 and 12. Coastal Karnataka, especially Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, is also likely to see scattered light rain," Patil said.

# Unions: Pvt commercial drivers ignored in budget

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

PRIVATE commercial vehicle drivers and owners have flayed the state budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, accusing him of completely ignoring the sector.

Representatives of the Indian Vehicle Drivers Trade Union and the Snehajeevi Chalakara Trade Union said the transport is one of the major revenue-generating sectors for the state government, but it was ignored in the budget.

"As part of the drivers and owners community, we presented many suggestions to the chief minister in the pre-budget meeting. However, none of our demands were reflected in the budget," said Gandasi Sadananda Swami, president of the Indian Vehicle Drivers Trade Union.

Among the major suggestions recommended by the representatives to the CM included setting up rest houses for drivers every 100 km on highways, ambulance facility, steps to prevent fuel theft from lorries, and measures to prevent robberies of drivers by increasing police patrol.

They also requested that two more Indira canteens be established at Kempegowda International Airport for the drivers and recognise a day as 'Drivers Day.'.

"We also requested the setting up of driver training centres to avoid accidents. We also urged that rates for renting vehicles be uniformly set, one city, one rate," Swami said.

The union said that they would start a movement to get the attention of the government to their demands by stopping tax payments.

### 'CM Siddaramaiah failed tribals in budget'

Mysuru: Members of the tribal community has accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of failing to do justice to them. The Adivasi People's Parliament had demanded Rs 600 crore in the budget to rehabilitate 3,418 tribal families who were moved out of Nagarhole National Park. Since the CM has not made any mention of the rehabilitation, DEED founder Sreekanath appealed to Siddaramaiah to include this in the next budget. He said even ten years after the high court directions, no concrete measures have been taken to ensure that they lead a decent life and allot 17,090 acres of land in Mysuru and Kodagu districts. Sreekanth also pressed for strengthening the forest rights committee at all levels. He welcomed the government's announcement to set up hostels for tribals, upgrade schools and distribute food kits.

# Activists demand official recognition for Tulu

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

WITH debates intensifying over the third language policy and imposition of Hindi, Tuluva Sangam, a group consisting of Tulunad activists, is demanding fulfilment of a long-standing appeal - official recognition of Tulu in Karnataka. At a press conference on Saturday, the group stressed the language's historical and cultural significance, along with the challenges faced by Tulu speakers, emphasising the need for policy changes to preserve and promote Tulu.

Rajaramshetty Uppal, chairman of Tuluva Sangam, highlighted that as per the 2011 census, 18.5 lakh people officially speak Tulu, but estimates from the Karnataka Tulu Academy and Tuluva Sangh suggest the actual number is around 35-40 lakh in Karnataka, with over one crore speakers globally. "Despite its 3,000-year-old history, Tulu has yet to be granted official language status, unlike languages such as Maithili (Bihar), Bodo (Assam), Dogri (Jammu and Kashmir), and Santali (Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal), which have been recognized under Article 345B of the Constitution," he added.

The forum emphasised that under Article 345A of the Constitution, states have the power to recognise their own official languages, urging the state government to take necessary steps toward granting Tulu official status.

# Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

**10TH March : The mix of fiery and watery heavenly alignments is a sure sign that change is on the way. If any of you feels like dropping some of your commitments and taking on new ones, so much the better. But if you are one of those people who likes life to remain exactly as it is, you may be out of step with the day's events.**

**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Optimism breeds enthusiasm, which in turn breeds confidence. This is a law of life which is now coming into its own, as Mars, your planetary ruler, approaches the next phase of its relationship to Jupiter. You'll do best if you pay extra careful attention to your intuition.

**TAURUS** (Apr. 21 - May 21)
Something's going on - but what? The whole tone of the week is likely to be coloured by a vague feeling that some sort of major event is looming, but you'll be unable to put your finger on the details before next weekend. In any case, you're in a strong position today, so with a little effort in the right places you'll make the most of it.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21)
Your financial stars are so finely poised that you could make a fortune, but one false move and you'll lose the lot. I've spelt out the risks, so it's up to you whether you go ahead or wait a while. You'll probably feel more confident tomorrow, but guard against complacency.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 23)
You're now following your stars through the middle stages of a cycle of growth, opportunity and expansion. Looking at the long-term, you must now consolidate. In general, the time for revolution is over, although you can spring a few surprises over the next three days.

**LEO** (July 24 - Aug. 23)
You have so much to offer. In fact, this is your time to save the world. Or at least, that's what you may think. First, you need to make sure that you actually know what other people want. Keep secret ambitions under review. It may soon be time to break your cover and make your intentions clear.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Although there's still plenty of time to make professional plans and steer other ambitions back on course, the time for glory may have passed, at least for a little while. Your romantic stars are heading for a burst of brilliance in a couple of weeks' time, so you can begin to fill up your diary.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Your ability to reconcile rivals and hold different factions together is one of your undoubted strengths, but this week you must calculate whether your peace-making efforts will be worth it. You've got some pretty strong opinions today, but that doesn't mean that you're always right!

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
All Scorpios in any way connected to the travel industry or educational world have a great deal of potential, but must play their hand cautiously. Every single one of you must watch out for legal complications this week. Plus, of course, you're busy catching up with jobs that should have been finished a long time ago.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Sometimes you have to yield to a superior force, if only temporarily. Unfortunately, you are no longer in any position to lay down the law or force the pace. There seems to be a tiny matter of an issue of principle to sort out first, although a less promising week for getting to the facts cannot be imagined!

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Deep down you know that the moment is not yet right to burn your boats. Yet with Mars, the fiery planet, intimately linked with Saturn, planet of limits and boundaries, the symbolism is right for a definite, if rather confused, break. But, of course, you have to do it without letting anyone down.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Optimism at work is one thing but, if you move too fast, then others will be left behind this week. You'll then be on a downward slope of misunderstandings, arguments and eventually a falling out. Take the trouble to explain yourself and keep friends and relations on your team.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Jupiter is your protector, but it is being undermined by various other irritating planets, so you may succumb to confusion and muddles. You have a choice, of course - revert to being a typically irresponsible Piscean for the duration! A little forward planning would help!

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

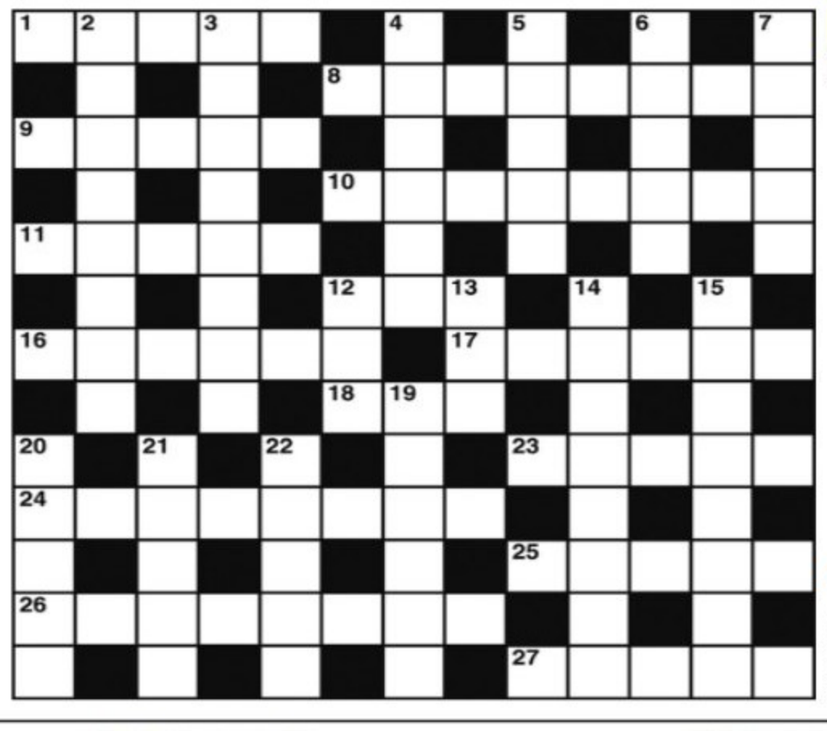
| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | | | 2 | | 8 | 1 | | |
| | 7 | | | | | | 9 | |
| | | 2 | 5 | | | | | |
| 6 | | | 1 | | 4 | | 5 | |
| | 1 | | | | | | 4 | |
| | 8 | | 7 | | 3 | | | 2 |
| | | | | | 5 | 6 | | |
| | 5 | | | | | | 3 | |
| | | 7 | 3 | | 1 | | | 4 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| 8 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 |
| 6 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 7 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 3 |
| 7 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 6 |

**SUDOKU HARD**

**TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE**

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



## CROSS WORD

**ACROSS**
1 Paddle vessel plying to and fro (5)
8 Picture of French writer (8)
9 Exploits that need to be witnessed (5)
10 Sail north but ordered into port (8)
11 Social individual (5)
12 An alternative to a key ring (3)
16 Old man chopped down tree (6)
17 The handsome chap said no unfortunately (6)
18 Form of food produced in layers (3)
23 What a thief may do is a hit (5)
24 In which all entrants won't come up to scratch (8)
25 Make a declaration in bad taste (5)
26 Craves to outrage so harms it up (8)
27 A crowd of journalists? (5)

**DOWN**
2 The morning help is easily won over (8)
3 Sound proof of what a performer can do (8)
4 Screen off in church (6)
5 Fight for a bit (5)
6 Dance where people avoid the bar (5)
7 Instrument put back in collection (5)
12 Modest piece of poetry (3)
13 Instance of the sack being appropriate (3)
14 One has a lot of trouble getting into this (3,5)
15 Arguments upset Sid in a way (8)
19 They're enormous soldier ants (6)
20 Maybe worth changing the cast (5)
21 Come in to register (5)
22 Pitch is rising first in instrument (5)

**SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS**

**Across:** 1 Fratricide, 6 Zeus, 10 Total, 11 Gremation, 12 Freckles, 13 Hotel, 15 Chances, 17 Sidecar, 19 Eyeball, 21 Soprano, 22 Ensue, 24 Dominant, 27 Animosity, 28 Chase, 29 Eats, 30 Deadweight.

**Down:** 1 Fate, 2 Alternate, 3 Relic, 4 Cockles, 5 Dresses, 7 Evict, 8 Single room, 9 Washed up, 14 Accelerate, 16 Chaperon, 18 Chain gang, 20 Luddite, 21 Samoyed, 23 Swift, 25 Niche, 26 Heat.

## JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

FWSTI

NTUCO

CJTEKA

TEREBT

WICKED
Wow! Look at the line. I'm glad we already have our seats.
Yep. Here they are on my phone.
1/13
THEY'D PAID FOR THEIR SEATS BEFORE GETTING TO THE MOVIE THEATER, WHICH WAS ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE _____ (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: MOUTH CLICK PICKET CANYON
Answer: The punter was training more in an attempt to — KICK IT UP A NOTCH

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Government of Karnataka

# DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

## Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board

## Inauguration of

# MOBILE MEDICAL UNITS

**Shri Siddaramaiah**
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

**Shri D.K. Shivakumar**
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

**Sri Santosh S Lad,** Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Chairman of the Board participated in the Departmental programme.

Date: Monday, 10.03.2025. Time: 10.00 A M
Place: Vidhana Soudha East Gate, Bengaluru

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Dr. Shalini Rajneesh,** IAS
Chief Secretary to Government
Government of Karnataka

**Dr N V Prasad,** IAS
Secretary to Government
Department of Labour

**Smt Bharathi D,** IAS
Chief Executive Officer and Secretary,
Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board

**Dr H N Gopalakrishna,** IAS
Commissioner
Department of Labour

**Important Achievements of the Board in the last two years**

- **5.08 lakh** construction workers have been registered as beneficiaries
- **32.05 Lakh** beneficiaries have been given financial assistance
- The Total Amount of benefits given to registered construction workers is **Rs. 1744 crores**
- **Rs. 2241 crores** cess has been collected

To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
As is enshrined in our Constitution,is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

**" Shrama Meva Jayathe"**

The IMD stated that places like Vijayapura, Bagalkot, Kalaburagi and Koppal will witness rising temperatures at 45 degrees Celsius, 2-4 degrees Celsius above normal. Coastal Karnataka is expected to follow a typical heat wave pattern similar to last year

# 'MULTI-PRONGED APPROACH NEEDED TO MANAGE MAN-ANIMAL CONFLICT'

THE reasons for man-elephant conflict are many, including the presence of weeds and shrinking forest boundaries. The list could include highly palatable food crops grown on forest fringes, which are like rasagullas for elephants, while the fodder inside is like ragi mudde, said Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force (HOFF), **Meenakshi Negi**. In an interaction with The New Indian Express, she spoke about her journey and challenges ahead as the head of the state forest force.

**Tell us about your journey. You are the second woman in India to be the HOFF, after Maharashtra, and the first ever in Karnataka.**
I am from Mussoorie, Uttarakhand. After getting selected to the Karnataka cadre, I joined the state in December 1992. I worked in Karnataka till August 2007. Till 2015, I was posted to the Ministry of Ayush with the Government of India. From 2015-23, I was posted in various departments in the Karnataka forest department, and from 2023 till recently I was posted in Delhi before I came back, when I was selected as HOFF in Karnataka.

**Was gender a concern when you joined the forest service?**
Entry of women into the Indian Forest Service started in 1980s. I am from the 1989 batch. Prior to me were two women officers. I was the third or fourth woman officer to join the state. Sometimes situations were comical back then. We joined as young girls and the established forest bureaucracy did not know how to treat us, or where to post us. Whether we will be able to go on night patrol, climb mountains, go into forests and face wildlife. There was a lot of hesitation and uncertainty among them. Slowly people accepted us and we made a place for ourselves. They understood that when women get into a job they bring their own, yet different, perspective. Today we are getting more women in the force.

**What attracted you to the Forest department?**
I had studied Zoology. My maternal grandfather was in the Forest department in the administration section. He pushed me into it. I was qualified for forest and other civil services, and I chose forest.

**How many hectares of forest land are vulnerable to fire?**
Determining the exact number of hectares of fire-prone land is difficult, but drier regions and transition belts are particularly vulnerable. While fire is a natural process that helps stronger vegetation thrive, increasing human pressure — due to development, population growth and forest fragmentation — has made fires more frequent and destructive. Most fires are human-induced, either accidentally or deliberately.

**How can exploitation of medicinal plants and minor forest produce be controlled?**
Medicinal plant conservation is a complex issue involving both scientific and social aspects. Ayurveda and traditional systems rely on classical formulations where only designated plant parts are used. Currently, over 80% of medicinal plants are sourced from forests. Despite the government's efforts to promote cultivation, large-scale extraction continues. Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are responsible for oversight but lack capacity. With hundreds of species being exploited, strengthening BMCs and training local authorities is crucial for sustainable harvesting and conservation.

**What is the success rate of afforestation programme?**
Studies show it is around 72%.

PIC: ALLEN EGENUSE J

EXPRESS Dialogues

We are doing away with exotic species like eucalyptus and acacia and replacing them with indigenous species. This is also one of the ways to keep elephants within forests. The nature of forests cannot be changed by growing sugarcane or banana inside. We go for species that always existed in forests like bamboo, kada mavu (forest mango), jackfruit etc.

**Do weeds pose problems to forests?**
They do. They are widely seen in Bandipur and Nagarahole and other forest patches. Uprooting lantana is a big problem as once we uproot, it grows back. It has to be continuously uprooted for four or five years to get completely rid of it. We cannot leave forest land empty as the soil gets washed away. We have to plant some type of grasses. With the limited resources we have, we are doing our best to keep weeds away.

**What about involving the local communities?**
We are roping in local communities to make products out of weeds, and give them livelihood. This kind of model is sustainable and drives the economy. We need trained labour and a market but at the same time the products have to be of good quality. They have to get an assured market, like for instance, directing all government offices to get dustbins made out of the weeds.

**How is ISRO's technology helping forest department?**
It helps us in a big way. With the help of satellite images, we can pinpoint trees and even know if a tree is missing. We have satellite images from 1990s. We can look at how forest land is changing, year on year, or even on monthly basis. This helps in guarding forest boundaries. Going forward as technology improves, we will have species-wise information. We need to improve in tracking medical herbs, as they are endangered.

**Should Karnataka's sandalwood tree be geo-tagged ?**
Karnataka is a blessed land where sandalwood trees grow like weeds. We need not geo-tag all sandalwood trees in Karnataka, as the state government deregulated sandalwood trees, relaxing felling permission.

**Cases of man-elephant conflict is rising. What are the reasons and what is being done to control it?**
Elephant population is increasing. With over 6,500 elephants, Karnataka is leading in elephant numbers. Some reports suggest that elephants are venturing out of forests due to a lack of food and water, but there are many other factors. For example, for elephants, fodder in forests is like ragi mudde (finger millet balls). Outside they find highly palatable crops like sugarcane, paddy and maize — which are like rasagulla for them. Naturally, they prefer these. Thus, a multi-pronged strategy is necessary to manage things. Simply restricting their movement is not enough. Karnataka is pioneering in elephant conservation by installing rail barricades.

**What about farmers growing alternative crops?**
They need to be encouraged to grow alternative crops. In some areas on the boundaries of Bandipur Tiger Reserve, farmers have started cultivating chia seeds. Elephants do not like these crops and tend to avoid them. Chia seeds require less water and are economically beneficial for farmers. Recently, the forest minister and department officials visited Hassan to meet families affected by elephant attacks. Many solutions were discussed in areas like Belur and Sakleshpur, including selling land to the government to create wildlife corridors that connect fragmented forest areas.

**What is the status of poaching in Karnataka?**
Poaching incidents have significantly declined in Karnataka. While poaching of large animals has decreased, illegal hunting for bushmeat remains a concern. Continuous monitoring and ground-level enforcement are necessary to tackle this issue. The department is using drone surveillance and satellite imagery.

**What is the extent of encroachment of forest land in Karnataka?**
It is difficult to say how much land is encroached. Some of the land was granted to people. There is also out and out encroachment, like if a grant is two acres, people take five acres. As per the Supreme Court, encroachment prior to 1978 must be identified. Encroachment should be cleared and we are looking into all these issues.

**How is the forest department getting tech upgraded?**
The department has collaborated with the Karnataka State Remote Sensing Agency. The department has its own ICT lab at Aranya Bhavan to monitor satellite images, including GIS-based tracking of forest land and wildlife movement. There is also an alert system for farmers and those in coffee estates, where alerts on elephant movement are sent through text messages.

**What was your role as you were in the National Commission for Women?**
I was member secretary of the National Commission For Women for two years. We did several things, we basically looked at women's grievances. We did seminars and rehab work. Since I am a forester, when I was in Maharashtra during an interaction, a woman from an NGO in Maharashtra, who was working on water hyacinth, said she suffered labour shortage. We said we would help and involved women prisoners. We started similar programmes in Bhopal and Nagpur prisons. The prisoners were trained and business was successful. Here she got productive disciplined labour. Women prisoners were happy doing worthwhile work and getting money for it in their bank accounts.

**Will you involve prisoners in deweeding lantana?**
I have visited prisons in many states from NCW, including Bengaluru Central Prison. Now I will talk to the Prisons department and rope in Soliga communities working in BRT Tiger Reserve.

**Tribal relocation is a major concern. How is the department looking at it?**
There are two or three things. One is people voluntarily coming out like what is happening in Kali Tiger Reserve. There are areas where people are not willing to go out but programmes can be intensified with better package options. The third is the moment the government buys land, prices rise and people don't sell. People can't be forced to come out. Voluntary relocation in Karnataka has been a case study by itself and I am going to publish a paper on it.

**What about coffee plantations?**
In coffee plantations, they don't want to move out as it is a livelihood for them. But for an elephant, it is a forest. Historically, forests were given to people for growing coffee. Over a period of time, there is a bit of blurring of boundaries.

**What is the forest department doing to inspire young minds in forest conservation?**
There is a programme for children called Chinnara Vana Darshana. We take them on forest trips and tell them about forest activities. There is a YouTube programme called Hasiru Honnu. As children already have enough to study, rather than putting it into a curriculum, it has to be an activity. We should be doing things which children can see. Every family has a car and that is what children are looking at. They are exposed to consumerism and if we expect them to become environmentalists by reading books, it is not going to happen.

**You worked with Ayush in Karnataka during the pandemic and have expertise in medicinal plants. How did this knowledge contribute to Covid-19 management?**
During my deputation in the Ministry of Health, I handled Ayush education, drug regulation, and awareness. Upon returning to Karnataka, I was appointed Commissioner, Ayush, serving for nearly three years, including during the pandemic. With a shortage of medical resources, we converted Ayurvedic hospitals into Covid care centres for mild cases. To manage rising numbers, we launched the Aapta Mitra helpline, a PPP model where companies provided call centres and free food. Ayurveda and Homeopathy students manned the helpline, triaging cases and directing care. We also distributed immunity boosters through Ayush hospitals.

# Siddu aiming to present budget next year too?

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

THROUGH his budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has sent out a message that he may continue as CM and present the budget for 2026-27 too. His supporters, including his son and MLC Dr Yathindra and Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna who wish Siddaramaiah will be CM till 2028, are only reflecting his ambition, political analysts said.

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president DK Shivakumar, all set to stake claim for the CM post after Siddaramaiah completes his two-and-a-half year term, may have to adopt a new strategy, besides resting hopes on the Congress high command.

With considerable allocation of funds for AHINDA, Siddaramaiah looks ambitious. The CM's Infrastructure Development Programme (CMIDP) with Rs 8,000 crore allocation is termed ambitious with Siddaramaiah aiming to take MLAs, irrespective of their party affiliation, into confidence. Each of the 224 Assembly constituencies will get an average of Rs 35 crore for developing infrastructure. Though the modalities are yet to be finalised, the CM will have a final say in releasing grants.

Though the existing MLA Local Area Development(LAD) grants of Rs 2 crore per annum are available, the MLAs will be at the mercy of the CM for CMIDP funds, a senior MLA said.

It will be interesting to see how Siddaramaiah will overcome the allegation that despite allocating huge funds to SC/STs under SCSP/TSP, he has diverted funds to the guarantees. Leader of Opposition in the Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy alleges that Rs 38,860.52 crore has been diverted.

Otherwise, Siddaramaiah, who aims to break the record of former CM late D Devaraj Urs as longest serving CM with seven years 238 days in office, has resorted to tricks in the budget to keep his image intact. He has announced the CM's Kaushalya Karnataka Yojane 2.0, CM's 1 Lakh Multi-storey Housing Scheme to provide financial assistance to 12,153 beneficiaries under the Rajiv Housing Corporation and CM's Minority Colony Development Programme at Rs 1,000 crore.

Apart from benefiting AHINDA communities, he has laid out schemes to appease backward classes, including Kurubas -- his community, the party high command, influential Congress leaders and his hometown Mysuru.

He has tried to please backward communities with D Devaraj Urs Residential Schools in each of the four revenue divisions for students belonging to 46 nomadic and semi-nomadic communities of backward classes, Rs 34 crore for Kaginele Development Authority, steps to complete 'Anubhava Mantapa', Kranthiveera Sangolli Rayanna stadium in Yelburgi taluk (Rs 6 cr) and Rs 28 crore for Kranthiveera Sangolli Rayanna Authority.

The Pragati Patha Scheme for rural road connectivity with an outlay of Rs 5,200 crore, 286 projects under the scheme for 38 Assembly constituencies in Kalyana Karnataka at Rs 1,000 crore, programmes worth Rs 5,000 crore for the development of Kalyana Karnataka by KKRDB will get him into the good books of AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge.

Even Shivakumar, as Bengaluru development minister, could not have asked for more as the yearly grant of Rs 3,000 crore to improve basic infrastructure has been enhanced to Rs 7,000 crore, while the government has stood guarantee to BBMP for Rs 19,000 crore for the tunnel road projects at a cost of Rs 40,000 crore.

HAPPILY EVER AFTER...
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah wishes Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya and Sivasri Skandaprasad during their wedding reception at Palace Grounds in Bengaluru on Sunday | EXPRESS

# Renukacharya accuses Yatnal of plot against BSY

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Chikkamagaluru

BJP MLA and former minister MP Renukacharya has accused his party MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal of "plotting" to tarnish the image of former CM B S Yediyurappa and BJP state president B Y Vijayendra.

He said Yatnal is unable to tolerate their rise in politics and added that Yediyurappa's contributions to the Lingayat community are immense.

Speaking at the Veerashaiva-Lingayat Maha Sangama programme in Chikkamagaluru on Saturday, he slammed Yatnal for spewing venom on the Yediyurappa family. "He (Yatnal) will not succeed as Yediyurappa and Vijayendra have the backing of the entire Lingayat community," he said.

Renukacharya said Yatnal must feel ashamed for dancing to the tune of others and people will teach him a bitter lesson for terming seers of the community as "paid swamijis".

Former minister B C Patil rued that the Veerashaiva community has not got its due share in the budget presented by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and said Vijayendra is not reacting to Yatnal's criticism as the latter is attempting to drive a wedge between Veerashaiva and Lingayat communities.

"Vijayendra will rise to new heights. No force can pull him down; we, as a united bloc, will support him. Future elections will be held under Vijayendra's leadership and we will bring the party to power," Patil said.

Seers of several local mutts, Veerashaiva leaders and the community people were present at the convention.

# SECURITY FOR WOMEN DOCS: GOVT COMES UP WITH SAFETY PROTOCOL HANDBOOK

BANSY KALAPPA @Bengaluru

ACROSS Karnataka, an army of dedicated healthcare professionals -- doctors, nurses and support staff -- work tirelessly through the night, ensuring the well-being of millions. With over 6,000 village panchayats, 30 major district hospitals, 175 taluk hospitals and over 60 medical colleges, both government and private, equipped with their own hospitals, the state's healthcare system is vast and indispensable. Among these selfless warriors, about 30 per cent are women, many of whom serve in remote areas and emergency sections late into the night.

But after the shocking rape and murder of a doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Institute, a crime that horrified the nation, the safety of women healthcare workers has become an issue of urgent concern.

Now, Karnataka is taking decisive action. In an exclusive interview with *The New Indian Express*, Principal Secretary of Medical Education, **Mohammed Mohsin**, revealed that the government has introduced several policy changes to enhance the safety of female healthcare professionals.

One of the most significant measures is the upcoming release of an exclusive safety protocol handbook, referred to as the Violet Book, which will outline essential guidelines to ensure the security of women doctors, nurses and support staff. This document, developed in consultation with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil, will soon be made public to establish a statewide standard for safety.

Mohsin emphasised that safety must not just be enforced in letter, but in spirit. "It is not enough to have policies; we must implement them rigorously to ensure that every woman healthcare professional feels protected at all times," he said.

As part of this statewide safety initiative, the government is focusing on: Stronger security measures at hospitals and healthcare centers, mandatory safety protocols for women working night shifts, emergency response systems and helplines for healthcare workers and strict action against any form of harassment or violence.

With these bold reforms, Karnataka is setting a precedent for the protection of women in healthcare. The government's message is clear: Those who heal and save lives must never have to fear for their own safety.

EXPRESS READ

**Ban on sale of shampoo, soap near water bodies**

Bengaluru: To prevent pollution of rivers, lakes, temple tanks and other water bodies with soaps and shampoos discarded into them, Forest and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre has directed additional chief secretaries of his department to ban the sale of these items within 500 metres of water bodies. Devotees bathe using shampoo and soap, and leave the remaining soap pieces and shampoo packets where they bathe. All this is getting mixed in the water bodies and polluting the water, Khandre said in a press release on Sunday. He informed officials that soaps and shampoo sachets are sold around water bodies for as low as Re 1. He also instructed them to take action to prevent devotees from disposing of their clothes in rivers, lakes, ponds and kalyanis. **ENS**

A woman labourer was injured in an elephant attack near Chikkalalavara village of Belur taluk on Sunday. Revati was going on a two-wheeler along with another labourer when the elephant attacked them. Umesh, who was riding the bike, also fell and ran away from the spot

# YOUR NO-FUSS FOOD CAN TRIGGER A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS: REPORT

## Study finds ultra-processed food linked to depression, mental distress

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

THE increasing consumption of ultra-processed foods (UPF)–like chips, carbonated drinks and frozen meat products is emerging as a significant factor in the decline of mental health among young Indians. According to the Mental State of the World 2025 report by Sapien Labs, individuals who regularly consume UPFs are three times more likely to experience psychological distress.

The report highlights a worrying trend — each younger generation is experiencing poorer mental health than the one before, with India mirroring this global decline. The study, which analysed data on psychological well-being, found that ultra-processed food, which constitutes a growing portion of daily diets, is linked to depression, reduced emotional and cognitive control, and overall mental distress. In some demographics, UPF consumption could be responsible for up to 30% of mental health issues.

However, food habits are only part of the crisis. The report points to multiple interconnected factors driving the decline in mental health, including increasing social isolation, early smartphone exposure, and environmental toxins. Younger generations report weaker family bonds, fewer close friendships, and rising parental neglect, all of which contribute to loneliness and anxiety. The growing dependence on smartphones, particularly from childhood, has been associated with sleep disruptions and cyberbullying - factors that further impact emotional well-being, as per the findings.

The report, based on data from over a million responses worldwide, highlights that young adults are struggling with severe mental distress, while older generations remain relatively stable.

Findings show that the pandemic triggered a steep drop in mental well-being among young people between 2019 and 2021, with no significant improvement since then. Despite the return to normalcy, younger adults continue to report high levels of anxiety, detachment from reality, and obsessive thoughts. Their ability to focus, plan, communicate, and manage emotions has also taken a severe hit, with challenges in these areas reported at four to five times the rate of older generations. In contrast, older adults above 55 have an average mental health close to the expected norm.

The report argues that existing mental health initiatives are failing to address the root causes of this decline and call for a shift in focus — prioritising research on the impact of technology, lifestyle changes, and environmental factors on mental well-being.

The car was completely damaged after it rammed into a stationary truck on the outskirts of Chitradurga city on Sunday | EXPRESS

## *FIVE FROM B'LURU DIE IN ACCIDENT NEAR CH'DURGA*

G SUBHASH CHANDRA @Chitradurga

Five people travelling in a car from Belagavi to Bengaluru died after their vehicle crashed into a stationary truck on the Pune-Bengaluru National Highway 48 near Tamatakal Road Overpass on the outskirts of Chitradurga city on Sunday. The deceased were identified as Shanthamurthy (60), a retired BMTC employee, NS Rudraswamy (69) from Vidyaranyapura, Mallikarjun (50) from Thindlu, Srinivas and Chandrahas, the driver of the car. Another person, Chidambarachar (72), has suffered grievous injuries, has been admitted to Basaveshwara Medical College Hospital. The police said rash and negligent driving and overspeeding by the car driver led to the accident. The occupants had visited Savadatti Yellamma and Banashankari temples in Badami. They were on tour of North Karnataka for the last three days and were returning to Benglauru when the accident occurred. Superintendent of Police Ranjit Kumar Bandaru told the media, "The car was moving at high speeds and collided with a parked lorry on the left side of the road. Preliminary investigation suggests that the driver did not apply brakes, which resulted in the fatal crash." A person named Prasad, associated with the Renuka Yellamma temple, was also found in the vehicle, indicating that the group was returning from a temple visit.

# Boy, girl studying in Class 10 hang selves

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kalaburagi

A teenage boy and girl, studying in 10th standard at a government high school at Yadrami taluk of Kalaburagi district, hanged themselves on Saturday morning.

The bodies of the boy, belonging to a backward class community, and the girl from the minority community were found hanging from a tree from a single rope in a field on Malli-Ainapur Road. The boy was from Nagarahalli village, while the girl hailed from Malli village. Both were 16 years old.

The two were said to be in love, but had not told their respective families. A family source said the girl was sleeping in the house on Friday night, but was not to be found on Saturday morning. The family members thought she had gone to answer nature's call. But later, someone informed them that the girl and the boy had committed suicide in a field. Family members of the two came to the spot, took the bodies and performed last rites.

The police came to know about the incident only after the last rites, while the two families told the cops that they did not suspect anyone for the incident.

Sources said the girl's family was planning to marry her off, and frustrated with this, she committed suicide along with her boyfriend.

# Man, son kill groom-to-be younger son

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Belagavi

A man murdered his younger son with the help of his elder son in Chikka Nandihalli village, Kittur taluk. The deceased, Manjunath Ullagaddi (25), was going to get married, when his father, Nagappa Ullagaddi (63), and elder brother, Gurubasappa Ullagaddi (28) allegedly bludgeoned him to death using bricks and stones. They have been arrested.

Sources indicate that Manjunath had fallen in love and insisted on marrying his partner. Though his parents initially opposed the relationship, they later relented, and his engagement was conducted. However, as wedding preparations were under way, Manjunath frequently consumed alcohol and caused disturbances at home.

On the night of the incident, he allegedly got into a verbal altercation with his mother. Enraged, his father and brother attacked him, leading to his brutal death.

Family members said Manjunath had been demanding Rs 50,000 for wedding expenses and regularly engaged in drunken fights. His friend, Shashikant described him as otherwise peaceful, working on their farm and in factories. However, relatives Lakshmi and Raju Katageri claimed he was unemployed and frequently abused his parents, even breaking his father's hand in a recent assault. His mother had filed a police complaint against him.

CRIME PATROL

### Five held for killing rowdy sheeter

Bengaluru: The Soladevanahalli police have arrested five persons in connection with the brutal murder of a rowdy-sheeter at a bar on Hesaraghatta Main Road on March 4. The accused, identified as prime accused Muniraju alias Muni (24), Rajesh alias Babli (21), Uday (19), Yatish Gowda (26) and Vinay alias Gudde (25), all residents of Yelahanka New Town, were arrested on Saturday. The deceased, Jayaram, was a rowdy-sheeter in Yelahanka New Town police station. The police said the accused had tracked Jayaram for three days before the murder and knew that he visited the bar regularly at night. On March 4, when Jayaram arrived at the bar, they hacked him to death. The police said investigation revealed that Muniraju was an associate of Kiran, who was killed by Jayaram in 2018. Jayaram had reportedly threatened to kill Muniraju. Following this, Muniraju and his associates plotted to kill Jayaram. ENS

### 62-year-old labourer dies in accident

Bengaluru: A 62-year-old labourer died when a speeding van collided with a mini truck while attempting to overtake it. The incident occurred on Sunday morning near a private college on NICE Road, within the Hulimavu Traffic police station limits. The deceased, identified as Murugan, hailed from Erode. At around 5.30 am, Murugan was seated in the passenger seat of the mini truck when a canter, driving at high speed, attempted to overtake and struck the truck on its right side. The impact caused the truck to topple to the left, crashing into a barricade. Murugan was thrown onto the road, sustaining severe head injuries. The mini truck driver sustained minor injuries. Both vehicles have been seized, and the canter driver is absconding. ENS

### Plaint filed after stray goes missing

Bengaluru: A stray dog that used to guard residents of Ranka Colony in Bilekahalli has allegedly been kidnapped by unidentified individuals. An animal lover and resident of the colony has filed a missing complaint at the Mico Layout police station. According to the police, Nirmala, a resident of Ranka Colony, reported that the stray dog, which regularly stayed in front of her house, had gone missing. She alleged that some miscreants had kidnapped the dog. Based on her compliant, the police have registered an FIR against unknown persons. Nirmala claimed that a group of three to four individuals took the dog away while it was sleeping on the street near an apartment. ENS

Participants at the Karnataka State Police Run 2025 in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

# 1L take part in police run in state

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

Over 20,000 runners in Bengaluru and more than 1 lakh across Karnataka participated in the second edition of the Karnataka State Police Run 2025 on Sunday morning. The event was flagged off by Home Minister G Parameshwara and MLC and Political Secretary to the Chief Minister and President BFI Asia K Govindaraju.

The event was also attended by DG & IGP Alok Mohan, Director General of Police (CID) MA Saleem, Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayananda, and other senior officers.

The Karnataka Police, in collaboration with the State Bank of India (SBI), Bengaluru Unit, organised the event under the banner 'Namma Police, Namma Hemme' (Our Police, Our Pride) to promote fitness, raise awareness about cybercrime and to make Karnataka a drug-free state. The race was held across all district headquarters in Karnataka.

In Bengaluru, races started and ended at Vidhana Soudha, passing through the scenic Cubbon Park. According to a press release, Bengaluru witnessed 20,000 runners, while more than 10,000 participated in Mysuru, followed by Hubballi-Dharwad. A total cash prize of Rs 17,20,000 was awarded in different categories.

LIC HFL
LIC HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
1st Floor, Jeevan Managal Building, Hayes Road, Bangalore -560025. Ph.: 080-43003651

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice Issued Under Sec 13 (2) Of "the Securitization And Reconstruction Of Financialassets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002.
The following persons whose names are mentioned in Col No.2, The details of properties mortgaged are shown in Col No.5. The borrower has defaulted in repaying the amounts due by them as shown in Col. No.4, in spite of repeated remainders, consequently these dues have been classified as NPA's as per RBI's guidelines. Notices were sent by Regd. Post to below mention date and that is returned / undelivered. Therefore, the respective borrowers are hereby called upon to repay the outstanding amounts due mentioned against their names in Col No.2 within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which LIC Housing Finance Ltd., would be constrained to initiate proceedings under sec.13 (4) of SARFAESI Act against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereunder against the respective loan A/cs to realize the amounts due to them.
The borrower attention is also invited as per Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act, the right of redemption of the secured assets will be available to them only till date of publication of Sale Notice.

| Sl. No. | Name of the Borrower & Loan No | Demand Notice Date | Notice Amount (in Rupees) | Description of the Property |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Mrs. Chaitra A M and Mr. Mahendra D T Loan A/c No. 412100003358 | 19/02/2025 | Rs. 1901519.00 | Schedule Property: All the piece and parcel of Site bearingNo. 24, Old Assessment No. 53 & 51/1 & New Assessment No. 51/1, 51/3,51/4, 51/5, 51/6 & 51/7 situated at Bylakonenahalli Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk measuring (35+34)/2 X 27 ft. & bounded on: East by: Road West by: Others Property North by: Site No. 23 South by: Others Property. |
| 2. | Mr. Gunashekara Loan A/c No. 410400008544 | 12/02/2025 | Rs. 1023601.00 | Schedule Property: All the piece and parcel of the Site No.2, Survey Nos. 291/1, 292/2 and 389, converted the land vide order No. KYP/LAO/41/2015-16/847 approved by the Kanakapura Planning Authority dated 26.12.2016. PID No. 1592900202800820857 Kaneshumari No.450/02, measuring East to West: 12.19 Meter and North to South: 9.14 Meter ( 40 30 ), situated at Arekal Layout, Shivanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and bounded on the: East by: Road, West by: Site No.15, North by: Site No.01,South by: Site No.03. |
| 3. | Mr. Prashanth Kumar Loan A/c No. 410600009065 | 13/02/2025 | Rs. 921222.00 | Schedule Property: All the piece and parcel of the entire vacant residential Site bearing No.37, (Carved out of converted land in Sy.No.20/1, measuring 3 Acre 30 Guntas, duly converted from agricultural to non-agricultural residential purpose under the official Memorandum dated 23-02-2011, vide No:ALN()S)/SR(K)/119/2010-11, issued by ther Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District) measuring East to West: 40 feet and North to South: 20, in all total 800 Sq. Feet, situated at Hampapura Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, within the limits and administration of K.Golahalli Panchayati and bounded on the:East by:Road, West by: Site No.42, North by:Site No.36, South by: Site No.38. |
| 4. | Mr. Raghavendra M Loan A/c No. 410200005519 | 22/08/2023 | Rs. 931845 .00 | Schedule 'A' Property: (Description of whole Property where the Project Scheme is located ) All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing vacant site No. 09/B, Khatha No. 35/61, in the layout known as " BALAJI GREENS", formed out of Converted Sy No. 61, vide conversion official Memorandum Order No. ALN. (NAY) SR/121/15-16, Dated : 06-04-2016, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, situated at Jarakabandekaval Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West : 30-0" (Thirty) feet and North to South : 20'-0" (Twenty) feet, totally 600 Square feet and bounded as follows : East by:30 feet wide Road West by: Site No.20 North by: Site No.10 South by: Site No. 09/A. |
| 5. | Mr. A Srikanth Sharma Loan A/c No. 411500006255 | 15/02/2025 | Rs. 677559.00 | Schedule: All that piece and parcel of the Site No.T30., formed in the Layout Known as "Upkar Spring Fields", comprising of Old Sy.No.20 and New Sy. No. 20/2, of Thirumagondanahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, vide Katha No.713, duly converted vide conversion order No.ALN/(A)(A)SR/105/2010-11, dated 04.06.2011, passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District and Plan Approved by Neralur Village Panchayath, Nerlalur, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District measuring East to West: 40' Feet and North to South: 19' feet, Totally measuring 760 sq. Feet and bounded on the: East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Site No.T29, South by: Road |
| 6. | Mr. Shashikumar M Loan A/c No. 412200003629 | 19/02/2025 | Rs. 945134.00 | "Schedule A Property" : All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted property in Survey Number 36, measuring 2acres 10 guntas, situated at Hennagara Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk,,Bangalore Urban District, Duly converted for Non-Agricultural Residential Purpose Vide Order No. ALN/AJ/SR/60/2017-18, dated 08.05.2019, and bounded on: East By : Land belonging to H R Nanjudappa, West by : Land in survey No. 7 belonging to Jyothllingappa North By: Land belonging to Papa Reddy, South By : Land belonging to Appaji Dixit. "Schedule B Property" : All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being vacant Residential Site bearing No. 52, katha No. 530/36/52, property ID NO. 150200103200520491, carved out of residentially converted property in Survey number 36,situated at Hennagara Village, Anekal Taluk,,Bangalore Urban District, in the layout known as "LAASYA WOODS" measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 20 feet and over all measuring 800 Sq Feet and bounded on: East By: Road West By : Site No. 66, North By: Site No.53, South By : Site No. 51. |
| 7. | Mr. Subramanya N Loan A/c No. 412200001742 | 20/02/2025 | Rs. 2108595.00 | "Schedule A : All that piece and parcel of the property being a residentially converted Survey No.23/1(converted vide Official Memorandum bearing No.ALN(N) SR 135/04-05, dated 18/11/2004 issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore) Present BBMP Khata No.008, measuring 01 Acre 01 Gunta Kharab land, situated at Abbigere Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagar Palike (BBMP) Ward No.12 and the property being bounded : On the East by: Land in survey No.23/2; On the West by: Road; On the North by: Land in survey No.24; On the South by: Land in survey No.22; Schedule "B" : 486.6 Sq.ft undivided right, title and interest in the immovable property mentioned in Schedule "A" Property. Schedule "C" : Flat bearing No.323, on Third Floor, in C Block, measuring about 1256 Sq. ft super built up area, containing Three Bed Rooms, hall, Kitchen and with Bathrooms, together with RCC Roofing, ceramic flooring along with One covered Car Parking space, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, lift, etc., in the multistoried residential building known as "SLV SAPPHIRE" constructed over the Schedule 'A' Property. |

Place: Bangalore
Date: 10.03.2025
Sd/- Authorized Officer
LIC Housing Finance Limited

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FORM G
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR KAVI PROTEIN AND FEED PRIVATE LIMITED, OPERATING IN-POULTARY FEED PRODUCTION BUSINESS, AT-NELAMANGALA TALUK OF BENGULURU RURAL, KARNATAKA
(Under sub-regulation (1) of regulation 36A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

| RELEVANT PARTICULARS | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Name of the corporate debtor along with PAN & CIN/ LLP No. | Kavi Protein and Feed Private Limited (CIN:U52203KA2010PTC052591) |
| 2. | Address of the Registered Office | No.26 Sindhi Colony, Second Floor, 1st Cross, J.C. Road Bangalore – 560002 |
| 3. | URL of website | NA |
| 4. | Details of place where majority of fixed assets are located | Kechanahalli Village, Nelamangalataluk, Benguluru Rural District |
| 5. | Installed capacity of main products/ services | Manufacturing of poultry pellet feed having production capacity of 7 tons per hour |
| 6. | Quality and value of main products/services sold in last financial year | The Corporate Debtor has been under the CIR Process since 24th January, 2023 Turnover for the year 2021-22 is Rs. 1,37,18,72,944/- |
| 7. | Number of employees/workmen | Nil |
| 8. | Further details including last available financial statements (with schedules) of two years, list of creditors are available at URL | The details can be obtained from the RP through the following email id kpfpcirp@gmail.com |
| 9. | Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at URL: | Eligibility Criteria is mentioned in the detailed invitation of EOI and can be obtained from RP through the following email id kpfpcirp@gmail.com |
| 10. | Last date for receipt of expression of interest | 25.03.2025 |
| | Last date of issue of provisional list of prospective resoluttion applicants | 30.03.2025 |
| 12 | Last date for submission of objections to provisional list | 04.04.2025 |
| 13 | Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants | 09.04.2025 |
| 14 | Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plains to prospective resolution applicants | 14.04.2025 |
| 15 | Last date for submission of resolution plans | 14.05.2025 |
| 16 | Process email id to submit Expression of interest | kpfpcirp@gmail.com |
| 17 | Details of the corporation debtor's registration status as MSME. | Enterprise type: Small: Major Activity: Manufacturing; Udhyog Aadhar No.KR03B0149548 |

Pavitra Vyas
Resolution Professional of
Kavi Protein and Feed Private Limited
Registration No.IBBI/IPA-002/IP-NO.1144/2021-2022/13844
AFA Valid till 31st December 2025
Address:F-1, Manoj Arcade, Guruwarpeth, Tilakwadi-590006

Date:10.03.2025
Place: Belagavi

## GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement)/EE/AEE/24-25/70171-76 Date:07.03.2025

### TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP portal mode only)

**PC-1406:** Manufacture and supply of Numerical Polycarbonate seals as per GESCOM Specification. Tender Amount: **Rs 97.50 Lakhs, PC-1407:** Manufacture and supply of transformer test benches as per GESCOM specifications. Tender Amount: **Rs 109.88 Lakhs Dates:** Bid documents available at KPPP Portal: on or after **11.03.2025**, Last Date: **26.03.2025 @ 17:30 Hrs,** Opening of Technical Bid: **28.03.2025@ 11:00 Hrs,** Price bid: **29.03.2025@ 11:00 Hrs,**

**Bidder Qualifying Requirements:** As per tender documents (IFB): For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 94484 99997. Web Site Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For information about the KPP Portal, contact the helpline at +91-8046010000/8068948777 or e-mail address: support@eprochelpdesk.com

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement), GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1063/KSMC&A/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
## REVENUE DEPARTMENT
## DEPUTY COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE, KALABURAGI DISTRICT

No. RD/END/204/2022-23 Dated : 07-03-2025

### :: TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

**Tender Document for Providing the Manpower services of cleaning workers 30 Nos and Computer operators 03 Nos and Security guards 18 Nos at Sri Dattatreya Temple, Gangapur Kalaburagi District, on outsource basis.**

**Under e-Procurement System**

1) Tender Reference : **RD/2024-25/SE0425,** 2) Commencement of issue of Bid document through E-Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka : 06-03-2025, 3) Last date for submitting clarification if any : **12-03-2025 at 5.30 PM,** 4) Last date and time for uploading of tender in e-Procurement platform : **15-03-2025 at 5.30 PM,** 5) Time and date of opening of tenders : Technical Bid : **17-03-2025 at 5.30 PM,** 6) Time and date of opening of tenders : Commercial Bid : **19-03-2025 at 11.00 AM**, 7) Contact Person for queries : Additional Deputy Commissioner, Room No. 13, 1st Floor, Minividhan Soudh, Kalaburagi District. Telephone : 08472-278605, E-mail : deo.kalaburagi@gmail.com, 8) Place of Opening of Tenders and Address for communication : -do-, 9) Tender Amount : **Rs. 122.41 Lakhs,** 10) EMD Amount : Rs. 183600=00 (1.5%) of Tender Amount.

**Note :** Completed tender shall be uploaded through e-Procurement system only in the manner described under instructions to Tenders Section I of tender Documents on or before the last date & time stipulated

**Sd/- Addl Deputy Commissioner Kalaburagi District**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1066/KSMC&A/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Commission, No.1, Seshadri Road, Bangalore-560001

No. DoA/e-Gov/CUG/Tender/2024-25 Date: 05.03.2025

### Tender Notification

The Department of Agriculture has established 742 Raitha Samparka Kendras (RSK), on each Hobli, to provide services and information required by the farmers. The Agricul Department desires to provide Closed User Group Mobile Telephone Services. With purpose of providing relevant, cost-effective, timely, responsive and accurate information services to the farmers to enable efficient communication with/between the officers of Department and for timely transfer of information.

DoA invites the "Proposals" from interested telecom service providers ("Bidders") for providing 1+1 Closed User Group Telephone Services, through e-procurement portal in accordance with the Bid Document. The Bid document containing instructions to Bidders, criteria for qualification and criteria for evaluation may be downloaded from the e-Procurement Website of Government of Karnataka ("GoK") viz. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** and the Proposals shall be submitted as per the provisions of the tender document.

**Important Details:** Bid Publishing Date: 07.03.2025, Bid submission closing date: 07.04.2025, Opening of bid documents: 09.04.2025, Bid Security: Rs. 3 lakhs (Rupees Three Lakhs Only).

**Project Proponent: Department of Agriculture, GoK**

Contact Person: Shri. Manju A C, Deputy Director of Agriculture (e-Gov), Address: Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka, Sheshadri Rd, Bangalore-01, Phone: 8277929834, Email: agri.kar2022@gmail.com.

**Sd/-**
**Director of Agriculture & Tender Inviting Authority**

DIPR/CP/SSC/5556/2024-25

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## SVC CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

Corporate Office : LEGAL & RECOVERY DEPT.
SVC Tower, Nehru Road, Vakola, Santacruz (E), Mumbai- 400 055.

Having one of its branches at : No.34, (old No.207) 4th Main Road, Hebbal Gangenahally Layout, Ganga Nagar, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 032
Having its Regional office at
No.1,Central Bank Road, Chamrajpet, Bangalore-560 018, PH: 080 71231027 TO 32

### POSSESSION NOTICE

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of SVC CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. (Formerly The Shamrao Vithal Co-op. Bank Ltd..) a Co-operative Bank, registered under the Co-operative Credit Societies Act (X of 1904) and registered under the Multi State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002, under The Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 as amended by The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws (Amdt.) Act, 2016 (44 of 2016) and further amended by the security interest (Enforcement) (Amendment) Rules 2018 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices dated **20-12-2024** calling upon the Borrower/Mortgagor **1. Mr. V. Mahesh** S/o. Shri. Motappa Venkatesh. **2. Mrs. Murugesh Jayasheela,** W/o. Mr. V. Mahesh both are residing at Pravirs Paradise, No.2/3, 15th Cross, Ganesha Block, Dinnur Main Road, RT Nagar, Bangalore-560 032 to repay the total amount due mentioned in the said notice being **Rs.56,45,611.77 (Rupees Fifty Six Lakhs Forty Five Thousand Six Hundred Eleven and Paisa Seventy Seven Only)** as on **30-11-2024** together with interest from **01-12-2024** at contractual rate and Legal expenses within 60 days from the date of the said Notice.

The Borrowers/Mortgagor/Guarantor mentioned herein above having failed to repay the entire amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ Mortgagor/ Guarantor mentioned herein above in particular and to the public in general that the undersigned Authorized Officer has taken SYMBOLIC POSSESSION of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with the Rule 8 of the said Rules on this day, the **06th day of March 2025.**

The Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor mentioned herein above in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., for an amount of **Rs.58,10,600.77 (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Ten Thousand Six Hundred and Paisa Seventy Seven Only)** of Mr. V. Mahesh & Mrs. Murugesh Jayasheela as on **28-02-2025** together with interest thereon and cost from **01-03-2025** until the date of payment.

The Borrowers attention is invited to sub-section (8) of Section 13 in respect of time available to redeem the Secured Assets.

### Description of the Property

**SCHEDULE-A:** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing Site No. 4 situated at 1st Cross, Manarayanapalya, Cholanaiakanahalli, BBMP Ward No.96-Hebbal, Present Ward No.22 - Vishwanatha Nagenahalli, Bangalore-560 032 measuring East to West 85+83/2 feet and North to South 64 feet totally measuring 5376 Square Feet and bounded as, East by: Private Property and Road, West by: Road, North by: Road & South by: Private Property.

**SCHEDULE-B :** All that piece and parcel Immovable residential Flat No. 302, bearing New Municipal No.4/13, PID No. 96-101-4/13 measuring Super Built-up Area of 1900 Square Feet on the Western Side of the Third Floor of the Residential Apartment known as "HOYSALA PALACE" constructed on Schedule-A property along with One Covered Car Parking Area along with 1/16th i.e. 336 Square Feet Undivided Share right title and interest in the Schedule-A Property, and bounded as East by: Flat No.301, West by: Road, North by: Road & South by: Private Property.

**Date : 06-03-2025** **Sd/-**
**Place : Bengaluru** **Authorized Officer**

IN THE COURT OF THE XXXI ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE (CCH-14) AT BENGALURU
**P & S.C. No. 316/2021**

**Petitioner : Aktharunnissa Begum .S** since dead by her Legal Representatives Ayesha Sultana @ Ayesha Khan, D/o late Abdulla Khan Residing at No. 1040/B, 12th Cross, Umar Nagar, Govindapura, Arabic College Post, Bangalore-560045.

V/s

**Respondent : Nil**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WHEREAS, the above named Petitioner has instituted a petition under section 372 and 376 of the Indian Succession Act for grant of Succession certificate / letter of administration to the extent of Rs. 1,60,000/- (Rupees One lakh Sixty thousand only) and Company share Certificates to a tune of Rs.4,72,000-/- (Rupees Four lakhs seventy two thousand only) along with its consequential and other monetary benefits which has held by the late Mohammed Osman @ Mohammed Usman husband of late Aktharunissa Begum died on 25.04.2007. Aktharunissa Begum also dead on 29.06.2021. Petitioner is the biological younger sister's daughter of late Aktharunissa Begum.

The above proceedings is posted for hearing or enquiry **on 16th day of April Month 2025 at 11. AM.**

Interested persons have any objection, plea or claim, over the same may either appear in person, or through pleader / Advocate before this Court on the said date. Failing which the matter will be heard and disposed off in accordance with law.

Given under my hand and seal on this 3rd day of March 2025.

**By Order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.**

**G.S. Rajesh**, LL.M., Advocate
No.48, "Krishna Kutira" (near Kateeramma Temple) Doddabommasandra, 1st Block Vidyaranyapura Post, Bengaluru-560 097.

IN THE COURT OF Vth ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE
**P & SC No. 94/2025 (CCH-13)**

**BETWEEN : Smt. Asha Somashekar,** W/o Late. Somashekar, Aged about 68 Years, R/at No.1780, 15th Main, 5th Block, 1st Stage, HBR Layout, Brundavan Nagar, Bangalore-560043.

...Petitioner

**AND: NONE** ...Respondent

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Whereas, the above named filed this petition under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act., for grant of succession certificate in favour of the petitioner, in respect of below mentioned schedule property. The below mentioned schedule property has held by Sri. S.B. Shivalingaiah and who died on 19.10.2024 (father of the petitioner).

Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear before this court in person or by pleader dully instructed **on 29.03.2025 at 11.00 am** inform to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-Parte.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of property bearing converted Sy.No. 79/1, (vide Conversion order bearing No. ALN (EBB) SR 165/2014-15, dated 14.10.2015 issued by the Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District) measuring about 114'-0" wide (road facing) X 80'-0"-depth, totally measuring 9120 Sq.feet situated at Bilishivale Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on the:- **East By :** Kalkere Boundary, **West By** : Remaining Portion of same Sy.No.79/1, Belongs to Mr. Hanumanth Raju, **North By** : Road, **South BY** : Sy.No.79/2 property belongs to Munianjanamma.

Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 5th day of March 2025 at Bangalore.

**By order of the Court, Senior Sheristedar, City Civil Court, Bengaluru.**

Address for Service:
**R.A. DEVANAND,** Advocate
No.101/1, 1st 'B' Cross, Mount-Joy Extension, Hanumantha Nagar, Bangalore-560019.

## HDFC BANK LIMITED

**Branch: Retail Portfolio Management, 2nd Floor, HDFC Spenta, Next to HDFC Bank House, Mathuradas Mill Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel West, Mumbai- 400013. Tel: 022-66113020**

**Regd. Office: HDFC Bank House, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel West, Mumbai – 400013. CIN L65920MH1994PLC080618 Website: www.hdfcbank.com**

### DEMAND NOTICE

**Under Section 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **HDFC Bank Limited** (erstwhile HDFC Limited having amalgamated with HDFC Bank Limited by virtue of a Scheme of Amalgamation approved by Hon'ble NCLT-Mumbai vide order dated 17th March 2023) **(HDFC)** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) listed hereunder, to pay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice/s, within 60 days from the date of the respective Notice/s, as per details given below. The undersigned have, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known respective addresses of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s). Copies of the said Notices are available with the undersigned, and the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s), may, if they so desire, collect the respective copy from the undersigned on any working day during normal office hours.

In connection with the above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) to pay to **HDFC,** within 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below in their respective names, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notices from the respective dates mentioned below in column (c) till the date of payment and / or realization, read with the loan agreement and other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following Secured Asset(s) have been mortgaged to **HDFC** by the said Borrower (s) respectively.

Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asset/s.

| Sr. No. | Name of Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative (s) | Total Outstanding Dues | Date of Demand Notice | Description of Secured Asset in respect of which Security Interest has been created |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | (b) | ( c) | (d) | (f) |
| 1 | **Mr Dravidar Mahesh Periswamy, (Borrower)** & **Mrs S Lakshitha, (Co-Borrower)** Flat-b/008, Floor-Ground, Ishaa Casablanca, S.No. 98/1, & 99/4, Panathur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru - 560087. **Also at:** 83/84, 1st Phase, Chettinadd Enclave, S Kolathur Road, Narayanapuram, Chennai-600100. **Also at:** B-410, Vrr Heritage, Outer Ring Road, Besides Total Mall, Doddanakundi, Marathahalli Colony, Bengaluru – 560037. **Also at:** B 1204, Kakkad Paradise, Opp Ganesh Mandir, Penkar Pada, Mira Road East-401107. **Mrs S Lakshitha, (Co-Borrower)** Senior Proces Executive, Societe Generale Global Solutions Centre, ITPL, 10th Floor, Voyager, White Field Bengaluru-560066. | **Loan A/c No. 1) 609720742 Rs.32,48,829/- 2) 651309498 Rs.29,56,224/- Total Amount Rs. 62,05,053/- (Rupees Sixty Two Lakhs Five Thousand Fifty Three Only) as on 31.01.2025** | **27.02.2025 ..... (e) N.P.A. Date: 04.06.2021** | **Flat-b/008,** Floor-ground, Ishaa Casablanca, S No S.no.98/1, & 99/4, Panathur Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru - 560087. Area Of Flat Admeasuring **978.00 Sq. Ft Super Built Up Area.** |

*with further interest cost, expenses, and charges as applicable incurred till the date of payment and / or realization. If the said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) fail to make payment to **HDFC Bank Limited** as aforesaid, then **HDFC Bank Limited** shall proceed against the above Secured Asset / Immovable Property under Section 13 (4) of the said Act and the applicable Rules entirely at the risk of the said Borrower(s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) as to the costs and consequences.

The said Borrower (s) / Legal Heir(s) / Legal Representative(s) are prohibited under the said Act to transfer the aforesaid Secured Asset / Immovable Property, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of **HDFC Bank Limited**. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the Act or Rules made thereunder shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

**Date : 10.03.2025** **For HDFC Bank Ltd.**
**Place: Bengaluru** **Sd/- Authorized Officer of HDFC Bank Ltd. under SARFAESI Act, 2002**

## JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK

(A Scheduled Commercial Bank)

**Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.**

### DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset**, whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

| Sr. No. | Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor | Loan Account No. & Loan Amount | Details of the Security to be enforced | Date of NPA & Demand Notice date | Amount Due in Rs. / as on |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1) Mr. Srinivas M, Prop. **M/s. Thibbadevi Store, Also at: M/s. Thibbadevi Store,** 2) Mrs. Yashodhamma S | Loan Account No. 33639610000390 31839960004920 31839960003992 Loan Amount: Rs.20,00,000/- Rs.17,492/- Rs.34,985/- | **Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the residential Property bearing Eastern Portion of Site No.1 Khatha No.42, BBMP Serial No.1800, situated at Doddakallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, Property coming under the purview of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore and measuring East to West 13 Feet and North to South 47 Feet, and in all measuring 611 Sq.feet and **Bounded as follows: East by:** Property belongs to Mr. Munimuttaiah, **West by:** Remaining Western Portion of same site, **North by:** Property belongs to Sri. V. Muniswamy, **South by:** Road. Along with 3 Squares R.C.C and 3 Squares A.C Sheet Roofed House constructed there on Mosaic flooring with cement and Bricks Wall, Doors and windows made of jungle wood with all civic amenities like Water, Sanitary and electricity facilities. | Date of NPA: 02-12-2024 Demand Notice Date: 07.03.2025 | Rs.18,50,190.00 (Rupees Eighteen Lakh Fifty Thousand One Hundred Ninety Only) due as on 06-03-2025 |
| 2 | 1) Mr. Kesavan R, Also at: M/s. Magendran M Pwd Contractor, 2) Mrs. Ramabai | Loan Account No. 47469430001223 Loan Amount: Rs.4,64,655/- | **Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Immovable property Municipal No.27/A, P.I.D No.94-113-27/A, Previously being Western Portion, Site No.1, situated at 1st Main Road, Bharath Matha Layout, Kacharakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Old Ward No.94, New Ward No.30. **Measuring:** East to West: 20'-0" (Twenty Feet), North to South: 40'-0" (Forty Feet). In total measuring 800 Square Feet together with A.C. sheet roofed House built and thereon provided with electricity facility along with all the rights, liberties, appurtenances, privileges, etc., weather underneath or above the surface and **Bounded on: East by:** Remaining Portion of the same property, **West by:** Site No.5, **North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.2. | Date of NPA: 03-03-2025 Demand Notice Date: 07.03.2025 | Rs.3,43,165.50 (Rupees Three Lakh Forty Three Thousand One Hundred Sixty Five and Fifty Paisa Only) due as on 06-03-2025 |
| 3 | 1) Mr. Raj Kumar, 2) Mrs. Sumathi R | Loan Account No. 34019440000168 Loan Amount: Rs.2,54,673/- | **Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that part and parcel of the property bearing House No.57, situated at Kavelbhairasandra NP Factory, Kolageri Pradesha, Bangalore City. **On the East:** Service Road, **On the West:** House No.56, **On the North:** Road, **On the South:** House No.58. Measuring East to West: 20 Feet and North to South: 15 Feet, in all measuring 300 Sq.feet. | Date of NPA: 03-03-2025 Demand Notice Date: 07.03.2025 | Rs.1,13,593.84 (Rupees One Lakh Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Three and Eighty Four Paisa Only) due as on 06-03-2025 |
| 4 | 1) Mrs. Pramila R, 2) Mr. Puttaswamachari G | Loan Account No. 47059440000018 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- | **Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property No.36/29/1, PID No.152900203701120188, Measuring East to West 28.96 Meters North to South 3.35 Meters total 97.08 Sq.meters situated at Harohalli Grama Panchayath, Siddapur Village, Harohalli Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Property belongs to Mr. Kempaiah, **West by:** Raja Bedi, **North by:** Property belongs to Mr. Vishwakumachari's, **South by:** Sump. | Date of NPA: 03-03-2025 Demand Notice Date: 07.03.2025 | Rs.3,16,824.50 (Rupees Three Lakh Sixteen Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Four and Fifty Paisa Only) due as on 06-03-2025 |
| 5 | 1) Mr. Kumar D, 2) Mrs. Manju H | Loan Account No. 47049630000961 Loan Amount: Rs.3,60,000/- | **Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel of the Property No.34/1, Sl.No.147, measuring East to West 19.8170 meters and North to South 6.4024 meters situated at Gollaradoddi Village, Mullahalli Grama Panchayath, Uyamballi Hobali, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** Road, **West by:** Property belongs to Dasappa, **North by:** Property belongs to Chikkaraiah, **South by:** Property belongs to Mudlugiri Gowda. | Date of NPA: 03-03-2025 Demand Notice Date: 07.03.2025 | Rs.3,26,271.24 (Rupees Three Lakh Twenty Six Thousand Two Hundred Seventy One and Twenty Four Paisa Only) due as on 06-03-2025 |
| 6 | 1) Mr. Guruswamy, 2) Mrs. Bhagyamma | Loan Account No. 45359630002069 Loan Amount: Rs.5,00,000/- | **Mortgaged Immovable Property:** All that piece and parcel for Property Khaneshumari No.57/48, measuring East to West 9.1439 Meter and North to South 19.8119 Meters, situated at Nidagallu Village, Nidagallu Dhakle, Narayanapura Grama Panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Kanakapura Taluk, Ramanagara District and **Bounded on: East by:** House belongs to Susheelamma, **West by:** House belongs to Varalakshmi, **North by:** Government Road, **South by:** Property belongs to Kariyappa. | Date of NPA: 03-03-2025 Demand Notice Date: 07.03.2025 | Rs.4,75,955.15 (Rupees Four Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Five and Fifteen Paisa Only) due as on 06-03-2025 |

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/ Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

**Date: 10.03.2025, Place: Bangalore & Bangalore Rural** **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited**

## KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/South/EE(O)/ AEE-4/EPR-25/2024-25/9438-41 Date:06.03.2025

### TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bid against enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/Tr(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/ AEE1&4/24-25/EPR-65 to 70 & 72 to 80/Call-2 Dated: 07.01.2025. for increasing vertical clearances of EHV Transmission lines coming under the jurisdictions of TLM Hoody and Somanahally KPTCL, Tr (Op) Circle-South for the following works.

| Sl. No. | Name of Work |
|---|---|
| 1 | Increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 220kV Hoody-Begur (BIAL) SC Line between Tower no.13 and Tower no.16 in Whitecity Layout by providing a proposed 220kV DB/DE+3, NBT NRS-Laggere design Tower in TLM Sub-division Hoody, Bengaluru. |
| 2 | Increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66 kV HAL-BWTC-1&2 (HAL-K.B.Halli& HAL-Bagmane-GTRE) D/C Line between Tower number 5 & 6 in Jagdeeshnagar by providing an intermediate tower (66kV DD+0, NBT, KPTCL Design) in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru. |
| 3 | Increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66 kV Hoody-BWTC-1&2 D/C Line between Tower number 9 & 10 by providing 2 Nos of new proposed Intermediate towers of 110kV, DD+3, NBT, KPTCL Design Tower & 110kV, DD+0, NBT, KPTCL Design Towers in Garudacharpalya, Mahadevpura limits in TLM Sub-Division Hoody , Bengaluru |
| 4 | Increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66 kV ITI-Hebbala-1&2 ( ITI-Banaswadi& ITI-Pottery road) D/C Line between Tower number 9 & 11 in Ramamurthy Nagar by providing 2 No's of new proposed intermediate towers of 66kV DD+3 [9 Arm] NBT KPTCL Design Tower & 66kV DD+3 NBT KPTCL Design Tower in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru |
| 5 | Providing DD+0 Gadag-Bagalkot design intermediate tower to Increase the Vertical clearence of existing 230kV Yarandanahalli-Hosur S/C line between Tower No.09 & 10 Raghavendra colony, Banahalli, Chandapura, Bengaluru-560 099 in the jurisdiction of TLM sub-division Somanahalli. |
| 6 | Providing 'DD+0' Gadag-Bagalkot design intermediate tower to Increase the Vertical clearence of existing 230kV Yarandanahalli-Hosur S/C line between Tower No.46 & 47 near TVS main road, Dasanapura village, Bengaluru in the jurisdiction of TLM sub-division Somanahalli. |
| 7 | Increasing the vertical clearance of existing 220kV Somanahalli-Khodays S/C Line at Jamboo Savaari Dinne, near Jamboo savaari dinne BMTC Bus stand between Tower number 1 to 3 by replacing existing 220kV SA+O tower by 220/220kV MD+6 Mylasandra design tower in the jurisdiction of TLM sub-division Somanahalli. |
| 8 | Increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66 kV Somanahalli-Jigani 2 D/C Line between Tower number 96, 97 & 98 by providing 1 No of 110kV, DD+0, NBT, KPTCL Design intermediate tower & releasing 1 No of 66kV D/C DD+3 tower by 110kV, DD+6, NBT, KPTCL Design Towers in Kalkere Forest limits, Bengaluru in the jurisdiction of TLM sub-division Somanahalli. |
| 9 | Providing 'DD+0' Gadag-Bagalkot design intermediate tower to Increase the Vertical clearance of existing 230kV Yarandanahalli-Hosur S/C line between Tower No.34 & 35 near Manchnahalli village, Attibele, Bengaluru in the jurisdiction of TLM sub-division Somanahalli. |
| 10 | Increasing the Vertical clearance by providing 1no of 66KV D/C NBT "DD+3" KPTCL design type intermidiate tower between tower no 7 & 8 of 66kV Subramanyapura - Remco D/C line-2 near Arehalli limits, Gas godown road, in TLM Sub-Division Somanahalli, Bengaluru |
| 11 | Increasing the Vertical clearance by replacing the existing 1No D/C 'A' type tower of 66kV Subramanyapura - Remco D/C line-2 between Tower no-10 &11 near Arehalli limits, Petrol Bunk road by 66KV D/C NBT "DD+6" KPTCL design type tower in TLM Sub-Division Somanahalli, Bengaluru |
| 12 | Increasing the Vertical clearance by replacing the existing 2Nos S/C 'A' type H-frame towers of 66kV Somanahalli-Subramanyapura S/C line-1 near Balaji Layout park, Raghuvanahalli and near Balmuri Ganesh Temple, Manjunathnagar limits by 66KV D/C NBT DD+3 KPTCL design towers in TLM Sub-Division Somanahalli, Bengaluru |
| 13 | Increasing the Vertical clearence of existing 220kV Somanahalli-Shobha dreams and Somanahalli-Mylasandra-1 DC line at Pillaganahalli b/w tower no. 34 & 35 by providing DB/DE+6 220kV NRS-Laggere design type intermediate tower in the jurisdiction of TLM sub-division Somanahalli. |
| 14 | Re-arrangement/Shifting of existing 66kV DC Line Hoody-Pottery road (Hoskote-1), Hoody-Hoskote (Hoskote-2) from existing 66kV T.No 14 to T.No 18 in Avalahalli and Medahalli village(Yellamma Lake) in TLM Hoody sub-division, KPTCL, Bengaluru |
| 15 | Increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 220kV Hoody-Malur SC Line between Tower no.16 and Tower no.22 in Anugraha Layout by providing 3 No's of proposed new intermediate towers of 220kV DD+0 Gadag-Bagalkote design tower, 220kV DB/DE+6 NBT NRS-Laggere design Tower and 220kV DB/DE+0 NBT NRS-Laggere design Tower in TLM Sub-division, Hoody, Bengaluru |

The Detailed Notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging **on or after 10.03.2025** to **www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper Link 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (Operations) Circle-South, KPTCL, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 009**

Your Guide to Spicy Living INDULGE Every Friday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, my client **Mr. Narayan Ramesh Desai,** S/o Ramesh Desai is negotiating to purchase the vacant land having Katha No.1127 which is morefully described in the schedule below from its present owner, **Sri V. Prakash Raju** s/o Venkataswamy Raju residing at No.9, 1st Cross, 24th Main, J.P. Nagar 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078. If any person has any objection for the proposed transaction of sale and any claim, right, title, or interest in the said schedule property, they are hereby required to submit their objections on schedule property with supporting documents to the undersigned at the address given below within **15 days** from the date of this publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no person has raised any objection with respect to this transaction. Objections received thereafter will not bind our client whatsoever.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. No.71/1, Katha No.1127, Converted Vide Conversion No. BDS/ALN/SR(S):55/2004-05 dated 27-05-2004, situated at Doddakallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now as per BBMP Records Katha No.822/1212/1/71/1/1127, measuring: **East to West:** 40 Feet 7 Inches (Northern side) and 45 Feet (Southern side) **North to South**: 145 Feet 3 Inches (Eastern side) and 125 Feet (Western side) **Total Area:** 5791 Square Feet, and bounded on the: **East By**: Remaining Eastern Portion of Same Sy.No.71/1 belonging to Sri. Srinivasulu and Sri. Subramanyam, **West By**: Remaining Western Portion of Same Sy.No.71/1, **North By**: Road and Private Layout, **South By**: Road.

If any person having objection to the aforesaid transaction, they are hereby requested to inform the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of this publication with valid documentary proof.

Yours faithfully,
**S Vivekananda**
**VGB Associates,** Advocates,
Bungalow no.3, Jayamahal palace hotel,, Jayamahal Road, Bengaluru 560046.
PH: 9845428653

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that o my client **Sri.K.R.Ramesh S/o Ramachandraiah** is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule Properties :

1. The original Sale deeds, vide Doc.no.VRT-1-02028/2013-14, 2. Vide Doc.no. VRT-1-02029/2013-14, 3.vide VRT-1-02030/2013-14,4. vide doc.no. Doc.no.VRT-1-02036/2013-14 stored in Cd No.VRTD191, registered on 16.07.2013, re in the office of sub-registrar, Varthur are misplaced/lost by client. In this connection, a police complaint has been lodged on 08.03.2025 online vide report no. 0701480/2023 for the Schedule Property.

If any person finds the document may handover the same to the undersigned within 7 days from this day. If the said document is misused by anybody, it shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall not be binding on our client and he/she shall be doing so at he/their own costs and risks.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTIES**

1.All that piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing Site no.67, Katha no.117/67, property no.67. Situated at Kodathi village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East taluk measuring East to West: 8 feet and North to South 15 feet in all measuring 120 square feet is bounded on: East : Kaluve, west : property of Munishamy, North :Road, South :Property of Chikkathayamma.

2. All that piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing Site no.66, Katha no.110/60, property no.60. Situated at Kodathi village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East taluk measuring East to West:17 feet and North to South 27 feet in all measuring 459 square feet is bounded on: East : property of Munishamy, west : Road, North :Property of Bajappa, South :Property of Chikkathayamma.

3. All that piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing Site no.62, Katha no.112/62, property no.62. Situated at Kodathi village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East taluk measuring East to West:47 feet and North to South 20 feet in all measuring 940 square feet is bounded on: East : Kaluve, west : Road, North :Property of Munishamy & thimmarayappa, South :Property of Chandrahasa, Narayanamm & Basappa.

4. All that piece and parcel of immovable Property bearing Site no.60, Katha no.110/60, property no.60. Situated at Kodathi village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East taluk measuring East to West:17 feet and North to South 27 feet in all measuring 459 square feet is bounded on: East: Property of Thimmarayappa, west: Property of Rathnamma , North :Property of Bajappa, South :Property of Chikkathayamma

**Sudha Shivaramu,** Advocate
No.65, Shop street, N.R colony, Basavanagudi, Bangalore -560078
Contact No : 991647366
e-mail:sudhabr93@gmail.com

A 37-year-old man strangled his lover, a married woman, after she ended their relationship. He allegedly lured her to a secluded spot near Guduvanchery in Chennai on March 3 and killed her. The police arrested him on Saturday after tracing his mobile phone

# Two killed as old building collapses on them in Belur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hassan

TWO persons were killed and three others were grievously injured after a building which is in dilapidated condition collapsed on them in front of KSRTC Bus stand in Belur town on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Amarnath and Nazeer running a petty shops in front of the building. The police with the help of the staff of the fire and emergency services rushed to the spot and rescued the three persons buried under the debris. Later, they were shifted to the HIMS hospital.

According to a staff of Belur town municipal council, the building was over 50 years old and belonged to Satyanarayana Gowda of the same taluk. The building was lying in ruins since decades as the property was under litigation.

The Town panchayat reportedly had issued several notices to demolish the building. Locals have blamed the owners of the building for the tragedy. They also demanded the building owner to give compensation for kin of the deceased immediately. The condition of injured is stable sources said.

Rescue work underway at the building collapse site in front of KSRTC bus stand in Belur on Sunday | EXPRESS

Rescue operation under way to trace workers trapped inside the partially collapsed Srisailam Left Bank Canal project tunnel, in Nagarkurnool on Sunday | PTI

# After 16-day rescue op, one body found

## Gurpreet Singh from Punjab found in Srisailam tunnel, worked in Robbins India

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hyderabad

AFTER 16 days of rescue operations at Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLB) tunnel, the officials retrieved one dead body on Sunday and shifted it to Nagarkurnool government hospital. The officials identified that the deceased was Gurpreet Singh (40), erector operator belonging to Robbins India company. He was from Punjab.

The rescue teams of Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) retrieved the body. Speaking to local reporters, SCCL general manager Vaidya said that they found the body on Saturday and immediately started the excavation

Vaidya said that the ground penetrating radar (GPR) identified two spots. The cadaver dogs brought from Kerala too confirmed those two spots on Friday for human remains. Thus, the officials dug at one of the spots.

Vaidya said that they expected to retrieve the body on Saturday night itself. However, there were seven steel plates on the body. As the body was intact, they do not want to spoil it.

"We took two hours to remove the steel plates on the body and retrieved the body this evening," Vaidya said. However, the operator's body was not at his work place. Due to water, it was washed away to the down stream.

It may be recalled that eight workers trapped inside SLBC tunnel on February 22. The rescue operations continued on the 16th day on Sunday. The search for seven other workers were still continuing.

> **The cadaver dogs brought from Kerala confirmed two spots on Friday for human remains. Thus, the officials dug at one of the spots** — Vaidya, SCCL general manager

# Security to be tightened at tourist spots

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru:

AFTER two women were raped near Hampi, Karnataka Home Minister **G Parameshwara** said the State government will tighten security measures for tourists. One male tourist also drowned after he was pushed into a canal by the alleged rapists.

"On one side, we are trying to attract tourists, and such incidents will definitely make a negative impact. We will take a relook at secruity measures," Parameshwara said here on Sunday. He also said they would inform US and Israeli embassies and ensure the foreign tourists return safely to their countries.

Parameshwara told reporters the government would take safety measures in Hampi and other tourist places. We want more tourists to come here, feel safe and return to their countries safely. We have taken this incident seriously and will ensure that justice is served. He said they would re-evaluate existing security protocols to prevent such incidents in future.

On the horrific crime that took place two days ago, the minister said four people, including two foreign nationals, had stepped out of their homestay after dinner. Three people came asking for a fuel station and demanded money. During the melee, they pushed a man from Odisha into the canal, where he drowned. His body was found on Saturday.

The men raped, assaulted and robbed the two women, including one tourist from Israel who is under treatment now. "We have arrested the accused and recorded the women's statements," he said.

### CBI investigating Ranya's case

Asked about actress Ranya Rao who was arrested for smuggling gold, Parameshwara said the CBI registered a suo motu case and investigation is on. On the involvement of other members, he said he doesn't know about the film fraternity or who else is involved. "We will get to know only after the CBI completes investigation about who is involved and who are the people behind this case," he said.

### Firm linked to Ranya got 12 acres in Jan '23

M/s Ksiroda India Pvt Ltd, a company linked to Kannada actress Ranya Rao, who was arrested in a gold smuggling case, was allotted 12 acres of land on January 2, 2023, Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) CEO Mahesh clarified on Sunday. The land, located in Sira Industrial Area, Tumakuru district, was approved for allotment during the 137th State Level Single Window Clearance Committee (SLSWCC) meeting during the tenure of the previous government, Mahesh said. According to a press release, the company had submitted a proposal to set up a manufacturing unit for steel TMT bars, rods and allied products, with an investment of Rs 138 crore. The project was expected to generate approximately 160 jobs.

# Post Koppal rape, murder tourists cancel bookings

KIRAN BALANNANAVAR
@Hampi/Hosapete

IN the wake of the brutal rape and murder incident reported at Sanapur village of Koppal district, there has been a drastic decline in tourist influx and even cancellation of bookings at homestays and hotels that cater to the tourists coming to Hampi.

The Koppal incident made international headlines as one of the victims is from Israel. Several embassies are in touch with CM's office and Koppal administration to know the condition of the tourists from their respective their countries. Hampi and its surrounding areas receive close to 60 per cent of the foreign tourists from Israel.

In the last two days, from more than 25 homestays located in Hampi and its surroundings have received cancellation of bookings through their agencies. Virupakshi V Hampi, State Tourist Guides Association secretary, said the Koppal incident has impacted Hampi tourism. "After the incident was reported, there is a decline in bookings at homestays," he said. "Even tourists from other states are either cancelling or postponing their visit to Hampi. The entire nation condemned Sanapur rape incident. Hope police increases patrolling in Hampi and surroundings," he said. Meanwhile, the Vijayanagara police held a meeting with owners of all homestays located in and around Hampi.

Police assure safety to foreign tourists at a homestay at Hampi | EXPRESS

Shrihari Babu B L, Superintendent of Police, Vijayanagara said the Koppal incident is a warning to all homestay owners and also the police department.

"We assure that for those who visit Hampi and other tourist places in the district, the police department is ready to take their care of them and soon guidelines will be issued for homestay owners. I have conducted meetings with homestay owners of Hampi on Sunday," he said.

BEATING THE TIDE

The grand boat race was flagged off, with 13 fishing villages from Uthandi to Uroor participating, to mark the 72nd birthday celebrations of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin | ASHWIN PRASATH

# Diganth faked abduction to avoid appearing for exam: SP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Mangaluru

17-year-old Diganth from Farangipete who had gone missing on February 25, wanted to avoid appearing for the second PU final examination that was scheduled on the first week of March, as he was not prepared for it, said Dakshina Kannada SP Yathish N.

Addressing the media on Sunday, SP Yathish said that Diganth, a PCMB student had taken Rs 500 from home and informed his family that he would visit a temple nearby before leaving the house.

"On that day, he had collected his hall ticket for the final examination. After leaving home, he walked along the railway track till Arkula and reached the highway from where he took a lift from a bike to Mangaluru city. Later, he went to a private bus stand and took a bus to Shivamogga. From there, he took a train to Mysuru and Kengeri without a ticket. He managed to reach Nandi Hills from there by walk and other means and worked in a resort and earned some money. With that money, he went back to Kengeri and Mysuru and boarded the Murudeshwar Express via Mangaluru on Friday. He got off the train at Udupi and went to a supermarket as he was hungry and also to buy some clothes despite not having any money left with him. The staff there stopped him when he attempted to flee and police were informed," SP said.

About footwear found on the railway tracks with bloodstains on it, SP clarified that Diganth had injured his foot and wiped off the blood on the footwear and left it there along with his mobile, so that nobody would trace him.

# NEP MUST BE IMPLEMENTED TO PROTECT TAMIL: MAHA GUV

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Coimbatore

THE National Education Policy (NEP) should be implemented in Tamil Nadu to protect Tamil language, as learning in Tamil is fading in the state, said Maharashtra Governor **CP Radhakrishnan** here on Sunday.

Addressing the media at Coimbatore International Airport, Radhakrishnan said NEP has been formulated in a way that students can learn a third language, such as Kannada, Malayalam, Telugu, or Hindi, and Hindi is not being imposed on Tamil Nadu as per NEP.

Responding to the DMK's March 12 protest against the three-language policy and delimitation, Radhakrishnan said there is no need to hold a protest against it in the state. "All the issues are being politicised in Tamil Nadu and it is true that Hindi is not being imposed on the state," Radhakrishnan, who was in town to attend a private event, added. On delimitation, he said Union Home Minister Amit Shah had already informed in the Coimbatore meeting that the parliamentary seats in Tamil Nadu won't be reduced.

Responding to DMK members' charges on why the centre is forcing Tamil Nadu to learn Hindi and why it is not stressing on teaching Tamil in the northern parts of the country, the Maharashtra governor said NEP is being implemented across the nation, not just in Tamil Nadu alone.

"Just like the centre has not imposed Hindi in Tamil Nadu, it is also not imposing Tamil on northern states. If anyone wants to learn a particular language, the central government will arrange for it," he said.

On rising sexual harassment cases in Tamil Nadu, he said the main reason for the increase in cases is the drug menace. He alleged youths are addicted to drugs, and he wanted the Tamil Nadu government to take stringent action against it.

# Kannur teenager follows extreme water diet on YouTube, dies

POOJA NAIR @ Kozhikode

AN 18-year-old lost her life after following an extreme weight-loss diet she found on YouTube. M Sreenanda, a resident of Koothuparamb in Kannur, had reportedly been surviving almost entirely on water for months, leading to severe health complications.

A first-year student of Pazhassi Raja NSS College, Mattannur, Sreenanda was admitted to the Thalassery Co-operative Hospital a week ago after she showed signs of extreme tiredness and vomiting. She was on ventilator support and succumbed to the effects of prolonged starvation on Saturday night. Dr Nagesh Prabhu, who treated Sreenanda, confirmed she was suffering from anorexia nervosa, a severe eating disorder characterised by an intense fear of weight gain.

"She had been starving herself for nearly six months. One of my colleagues had earlier advised her family to seek psychiatric help, but they underestimated the seriousness of the condition," he said. Anorexia Nervosa is a complex disorder that not only affects eating habits but also has deep psychological roots.

"Patients eventually lose their sense of hunger, and in Sreenanda's case, her sodium and sugar levels plummeted beyond correction," the doctor said. While such cases are more common in Western countries, experts warn that India, particularly Kerala, is witnessing a rise in similar instances mainly due to unrealistic body standards propagated by social media.

Sreenanda's case is not an isolated one. There have been instances where children and teens are taken to extreme measures due to fear of gaining weight.

# TTD to implement Aadhaar-based authentication

ENS @ Vijayawada

THE Andhra The Andhra Pradesh government has approved the implementation of Aadhaar authentication and eKYC for pilgrim verification at Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD). The move aims to enhance transparency, prevent malpractice by touts, and streamline services such as darshan, sevas, and accommodation.

The decision follows a request from TTD to curb fraudulent bookings and ensure a seamless experience for devotees visiting Tirumala from across India and abroad. The State government sought approval from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology before issuing an official order to implement the face authentication module at the temple.

Officials believe the new mechanism will improve efficiency and ease the verification process, ensuring a secure and seamless experience for devotees availing of TTD services.

EXPRESS READ

### Shepherd averts Howrah-Y'pur train mishap

Nellore: A major train accident was averted on Sunday near Adavayya Colony under Gudur railway junction limits when a local shepherd, Sunil, spotted a fractured rail track and quickly warned an approaching train. The incident took place as the Howrah-Yeshvantpur Express was heading to Tirupati from Gudur. Noticing the damaged track, Sunil acted swiftly, waving a red cloth to signal the train. The loco pilot responded immediately, applying emergency brakes and stopping the train before it could reach the broken section. Railway officials, rushed to the site and carried out urgent repairs, restoring services on the Gudur-Tirupati route.

# First rear fuselage for LCA handed over to HAL, Rajnath terms it a milestone

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE first rear fuselage for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A, produced by Indian private industry, Alpha Tocol Engineering Services Private Limited, was handed over to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Aircraft division in Bengaluru on Sunday.

Speaking at the event, Rajnath Singh termed the handing over as a milestone in the historic journey of India's defence manufacturing. The ceremony is a testimony to India's progress towards Aatmanirbharta in defence and the government's commitment towards enhanced public-private partnership, he said.He commended HAL and the private sector for constantly strengthening the armed forces with the latest platforms and technologies. HAL, through its integrated model and strategies, is not only bolstering the strength of soldiers, but also opening new dimensions of manufacturing and R&D by collaborating with the private sector.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at HAL facility in Bengaluru on Sunday

A fuselage is the main body section of the aircraft which holds the pilot, passengers and cargo, while the rear fuselage supports the tail section and its associated components. He described HAL as the fuselage of the country's defence and aerospace sector, with private companies such as L&T, Alpha Tocol, Tata Advanced Systems and VEM Technologies playing the role of rear fuselage, supporting HAL. "Together with these Indian components, the aircraft which is being manufactured in our defence and aerospace sector will reach greater heights in the times to come," he said.

Rajnath Singh said, "While our courageous air warriors have made an invaluable contribution, the equipment being manufactured indigenously is providing them with added strength, with which they protect our borders."

HAL has already manufactured 12 LCA MK1A rear fuselages, which are on the aircraft in the manufacturing line. With this supply, a major structure module produced by an Indian private partner will be integrated into the LCA Mk1A aircraft, enabling HAL to meet additional delivery commitments for IAF from 2025-26 onwards.

The event was also attended by Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, MP Sudhanshu Trivedi and officials from HAL.

> **Together with these Indian components, the aircraft which is being manufactured in our defence and aerospace sector will reach greater heights in the times to come** — Rajnath Singh, Defence Minister

# EDITORIAL

At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst — Aristotle

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

## REALIGN POLICIES OF RBI TO CHANGING ECONOMIC REALITIES

UNDER the new leadership, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is 'undoing' some of the measures taken during the previous regime to allow the banking system to breathe easy. By the time Sanjay Malhotra took the reins of the central bank from Shaktikanta Das in December last year, India's growth had slowed down to 5.6 percent, and the equity market was in a tight bear grip. The liquidity in the banking system was tight, and regulatory tightening was slowing down credit offtake. Many analysts blamed RBI's over-zealous stance on curbing inflation for the overall economic slowdown. It is also believed that Das' inability to navigate this situation led to his ouster from Mint Road. New governor Malhotra, who was earlier in the finance ministry heading the revenue department, came to the central bank with special instructions, it seems, from the government to push growth over inflation control. He lost no time and started the rate-cut cycle in the February monetary policy. There was a 180-degree change in the policy stance of RBI—growth over inflation control.

The bank not only made the bold move of cutting interest rates after almost five years but also followed it up by infusing sufficient liquidity through multiple steps in different phases—the latest being the announcement to infuse ₹1.87 lakh crore in March. The RBI has already injected ₹4.5 lakh crore into the banking system since the middle of January. That was just the beginning, maybe. Malhotra began undoing some other steps taken by the previous dispensation. The RBI has also started rolling back some of the 'tightening' measures, like reducing the risk of bank loans to non-banking financial companies by 25 percentage points. The move is expected to increase the credit flow to retail customers through NBFCs. These moves suggest, probably rightly so, that the RBI is letting the liquidity taps open to ensure more money flow to industry, retail borrowers and investors investing in capital markets for now. The central bank may also change its stance on cryptocurrencies after US President Donald Trump announced the establishment of cryptocurrency reserves. Shaktikanta Das was quite against virtual currencies. The Indian economy will do with some positive news, and the new RBI governor can kickstart the process by taking a few more measured steps.

## NURTURE GRASSLANDS TO SAVE THE INDIAN BUSTARD

AT the National Board for Wildlife meeting at Sasan in Gujarat's Junagadh district recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who chaired the meeting, discussed several wildlife conservation plans. Of particular importance was the announcement of the National Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Conservation Action Plan, stressing the importance of population resurrection and conservation of this bird, which is found only in India but is on the verge of extinction.

The estimated GIB population has fallen from around 300 in 2008 to 150 this year, with the largest numbers in Rajasthan, the rest across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka—the last with the least, as just two were sighted last year in Siruguppa in Ballari, and just one so far this year in Bidar. Ornithologists and wildlife experts have blamed this decline on poaching, habitat loss, collisions with windmills, power lines and vehicles, and increased rate of development.

The significance of the GIB in the country's ecological balance and ecosystem is immense. A thriving GIB population is a strong indicator of healthy grasslands, so this bird is called the "pulse of the grasslands". Grasslands play an extremely crucial role. They are grazing lands for livestock, sustain pastoral communities, act as a carbon sink, maintain biodiversity by providing habitats for unique wildlife species, and regulate water flow in the region—all significant for the ecosystem.

That the GIB is on the verge of extinction points accusingly to the condition of India's shrinking grasslands. As per one estimate, from 2005 to 2015, grasslands shrunk by about 31 percent, from 18 million hectares to 12.3 million hectares. This has been attributed to agricultural expansion, overgrazing, and poor land management, which has led to a loss of biodiversity and degradation, with several grasslands of the past now classified as "wastelands".

The National GIB Conservation Action Plan is a welcome move. The GIB is also under the Species Recovery Programme, aiming at conservation efforts. With the recently added impetus, the top priority is to create safe habitats, namely grasslands, for the GIB. Jaisalmer in Rajasthan houses the National Conservation Breeding Centre, where population resurrection is being pursued, even using methods like artificial insemination. The five states with GIB populations must work together and with the Centre to save this species from extinction.

QUICK TAKE

### COVERT SEXUAL INTENT

THE Delhi High Court recently gave a nuanced judgement that a male relative touching a minor girl outrages her modesty, but without "overt or inferred sexual intent", it doesn't attract the Pocso Act. It raises the matter of overt sexual intent or the lack of it. The difference is razor-thin. And yes, it certainly falls under the bad-touch category. However, the girl cannot be expected to sense covert or masked sexual intent, which is different from the absence of sexual intent. It is an unidentifiable crime which can incite bad touches—or much worse—and victimises innumerable girl children. By law, they aren't "sexual assaults", but they are.

THREE weeks after the stampede on February 15, which killed at least 18 at the New Delhi station, a tiny news item mentions the transfer of three senior railways officers. The inquiry committee investigating the stampede is yet to submit its report. The authorities have denied any connection between these transfers and the stampede. However, the same news item states that the "ministry appears to have taken the incident very seriously, albeit quietly".

Herein lies the rub. Why are we so averse to taking responsibility and fixing accountability? Let us consider the history of our railways, one of the great marvels of engineering, management, human transportation—and employment. I agree that it would be uncharitable to call the Indian railways disaster-prone. But, as many experts readily admit, our safety record leaves much to be desired. The political fallout of this vulnerability has been significant.

We might recall that several railway ministers in India have resigned or offered to resign following railway accidents. The most notable was Lal Bahadur Shastri, who put in his papers in 1956 after two railway mishaps. The then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru accepted his resignation after the second of these accidents in which over 150 passengers died in a bridge collapse near Ariyalur, plunging the train carrying them to a watery grave. Shastri's reputation was saved; he went on to become India's second prime minister.

Much more recently, Nitish Kumar resigned in 1999 after the Gaisal train collision in West Bengal. The Avadh Assam Express and the Brahmaputra Mail collided, killing 290 people due to a signalling error. In 2017, after the Kaifiyat Express and Puri-Utkal Express derailment, railway minister Suresh Prabhu offered to resign. Prime Minister Narendra Modi let him go after asking him to wait a month.

Some would even go so far as to suggest that if you want a railway minister to resign, engineer an accident. Let us look at the record of the current railway minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw. According to an answer to a question raised in parliament, data from 17 railway zones in the last five years shows that over 350 people died and more than 950 were injured in 200 railway accidents.

This isn't a flattering performance or statistic. Yet, we know that some of these so-called accidents might actually have been acts of sabotage or mischief. That is why I want to make myself perfectly clear: I am not, like some opposition politicians, baying for rail minister Ashwini Vaishnaw's blood.

In addition, it is only fair that the corrective measures announced by Vaishnaw's ministry, including holding areas in major stations where overcrowding usually occurs, be duly acknowledged. But one wonders why, in the first place, should so many be allowed inside the station. Can't entry be restricted as in airports? If non-experts can think of simple measures to prevent mishaps, especially during seasonal or other high-pressure occasions, why can't those designated to ensure public convenience and safety do better?

The reason, I believe, is simple. As a nation, we are much more invested in deflecting blame than fixing the underlying problem. I venture to suggest that this tendency, by no means confined to the railways, is true in all spheres of the overgargantuan government apparatus. To raise the issue to a much higher level, even when it comes to national security, from the debacle of the Chinese invasion in 1962 to Kargil in 1999, to 26/11 in 2008, to Pulwama in 2019, we never really know who is responsible for the lapses and what corrective measures have been taken. It is not that there have been no inquiry committees or reports, but their findings are usually suppressed or never allowed to be discussed, even in rarified sections of government, let alone civil society.

Isn't this a hangover of the colonial mindset of an authoritarian government? We talk so much about decolonisation, but critical aspects of the colonial government machinery are far from being dismantled. Admitting blame, fixing responsibility, and taking corrective measures are part of the imperative chain of democratic governance that we are far from implementing. Yet, we keep boasting to the world that we are the mother of democracy.

Consequently, what we might rightfully expect from minister Vaishnaw and our government is to take responsibility and admit failures or lapses where they exist. Instead, if we go back to the very day of the stampede—Saturday, February 15—it would appear that there was a blatant attempt to spin the narrative by using its favoured news agencies right when the tragedy was unfolding. Till two hours after the incident, that is, 11.30 PM, neither the stampede nor the deaths were clearly admitted; instead, the nation was told that the situation was under control.

That the minister in question also controls the Information and Broadcasting Ministry possibly makes handling the tragedy more morally questionable. True, accidents or mishaps are, unfortunately, part of the broader challenges a country as vast and complex as India faces. But sadly, many of these tragedies are preventable because they are outcomes of incompetence, negligence, corruption, or sabotage.

That is why the subsequent handling of these incidents is so problematic. So many lives are lost, families destroyed, and innocent citizens hurt. But instead of sincere regret, let alone reckoning, there is a hyperdrive of damage control efforts. Ex-gratia payments are promptly announced, but more as sops to the survivors rather than means of owning up to the responsibility.

Sadly, the public, too, instead of demanding greater transparency and accountability from the government, looks to immediate relief and compensation from its mai-baap sarkar. This suggests we are low on governance standards and public trust as a country. If we want to strengthen Indian democracy, we must simultaneously learn to be more disciplined and responsible citizens while also demanding greater transparency and accountability from our elected representatives.

If we do not take responsibility and admit our mistakes, we risk repeating rather than correcting them.

*(Views are personal)*
*(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)*

We are much more invested in deflecting blame than fixing the underlying problem. Inquiry committee findings are usually suppressed, a hangover of the colonial government

## GOOD GOVERNANCE SHOULD NOT BE SO SLIPPERY

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

MANOAR PARDIKAR

## UNDERSTANDING THE HOLY MONTH OF FASTING

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

RAMZAN Karim, dear readers. Ramzan lasts a month, depending on the sighting of the new moon. It began on March 1 this year. In India, fasting will continue until March 30 or 31, 2025, based on the new moon sighting, which marks the beginning of Eid-ul-Fitr.

I thought non-Muslims might like to know more about this important Muslim event, so I want to share some points about Ramzan. The Arabs say Ramadan, but we South Asians have called it Ramzan for centuries, so I will use our word. Ramzan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar, and it is believed that the *Quran* was revealed during this month. During this month, Muslims observe a strict fast from dawn to sunset.

The pre-dawn meal is called *suhoor* in Arabic and *sehri* in Persian. India says *sehri*. It's said that to provide energy throughout the day, filling, protein-rich foods, complex carbohydrates like wholewheat and brown rice, healthy fats, and hydrating fruits and vegetables are eaten. Popular items include eggs, dairy products like yoghurt and cheese, lean meats like chicken and fish, legumes like beans, lentils, and chickpeas, a variety of nuts, and cucumbers, tomatoes, watermelon, and oranges, depending on season.

Some foods are better avoided. Salty foods like processed meats, pickles, and salty snacks can cause dehydration. Sugary foods like pastries, cakes, and sweet cereals usually lead to an energy crash later in the day, especially if fasting. Caffeinated drinks like tea, coffee, and soda can cause dehydration and disturb sleep. Fried foods like pakodas, samosas, and puris can cause bloating and indigestion.

After fasting the whole day, Muslims break their fast at sunset with a meal called *iftar*. This evening meal replenishes energy levels and rehydrates the body for the next day's rigours. They first sip water and eat dates in memory of what their Prophet ate in Arabia. Dates provide instant energy, while water rehydrates the body. There is usually a soup or broth to gently pace digestion after the long hours of fasting. Soups and broths usually include lentil soup, chicken broth, or vegetable soup. There are nice vegetarian recipes for Arab-style food on the net that anyone could try. I like the dal soup, Shorbet Adas, and Mujadara, an Arab khichdi with dal, rice, herbs and caramelised onions.

The lean proteins for *iftar* include chicken, fish, tofu, and legumes, said to help in muscle repair. Fruits and vegetables like mangoes, bananas, apples, cucumbers, and leafy greens provide vitamins and fibre, while good old whole grains like brown rice, millet, and whole-wheat bread help restore energy. *Iftar* foods to avoid are the same as those avoided for *sehri*—processed, fried, and excessively salty and sugary food. But I've noticed that both Hindus and Muslims out North love breaking their fast with fried food. We are a pakoda-bajji nation.

PTI

People seem to have stopped meeting each other, which is surely not good for national health. As my Maulana friend used to say, "Every Muslim should know where the tulsi is kept in a Hindu home, and every Hindu should know where the *Ayat al Kursi* hangs in a Muslim home."

During my MA years at Delhi University, I belonged to a close group of five classmates, including our friend Rashid. He hailed from the historic place in the walled city called Ballimaran, near Chandni Chowk, where the famous 19th-century poet Mirza Ghalib once lived. Rashid's mother used to send us enormous tiffin-carriers of home-cooked food for Eid. We eagerly spread newspapers on the floor in one of the postgraduate boys' hostel rooms where visitors were allowed and had a royal lunch. I especially remember her korma with roasted, popped water lily seeds called makhana in the north.

After that, I went to Muslim homes for *iftar* several times and enjoyed Delhi's delicious 'Mughlai' cuisine. In fact, I have hosted *iftar* at home for a week for some very decent young boys who were far away from home during Ramzan 2007, making sure to keep dates handy. We didn't think in rigid 'religious' slots then; it was simply Indian to Indian that here were these boys away from home in the vastness and hurly-burly of Delhi. I was merely fulfilling my *dharma* as I saw it, and they, too, respected and appreciated that.

I mention it only because people seem to have stopped meeting each other, which is surely not good for national health. Whereas my Maulana friend in the walled city used to say, "Every Muslim should know where the tulsi is kept in a Hindu home, and every Hindu should know where the *Ayat al Kursi* hangs in a Muslim home." *Ayat al Kursi* means the 'throne verse' and is usually hung in a prominent place as a blessing and protection on the house, like how many Hindu homes hang the *Parthasarathiyam*, showing Krishna and Arjuna in the chariot.

*Ayat al Kursi* is the 255th verse of *Surah al-Baqarah* in the *Quran*. It is called 'the greatest verse in the *Quran*' and is apparently recited daily by Muslims around the world to protect themselves from evil.

Verse 18 from *Surah al Baqarah* spoke to me, which goes '*Summum bukmun umyun fahum layarjiyun*', meaning, 'Deaf, dumb and blind, they shall not return'. This was apparently uttered by medieval Sufis before sleep so that no demons or evil spirits could come near them. A friend said it's like the *Hanuman Chalisa* for Muslims, and I instantly thought of '*Bhoot pisach nikat nahi aave Mahabir jab naam sunave*'.

In Islam, *sawm* (fasting) is excused during *safar* (travel), especially if you are far from home and do not stay too long at your destination. Children, pregnant women, the old, the sick, and those undergoing great physical strain for whatever reason are also excused and may fast later. May the holy month pass well for all Muslims.

*(Views are personal)*
*(shebaba09@gmail.com)*

## MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

### Weaker pen

Ref: *Has the media lost its mojo and money?* (Mar 9). In the past, people used to spend their time reading a variety of newspapers. Now, with the news available 24x7, people have stopped subscribing to newspapers. Media houses have also become pro or anti-establishment; people watch only the news they want. The days of "the pen is mightier than the sword" are truly over.
**Parthasarathy Mandadi, Tirupati**

### Reading habit

Every right-thinking person cannot but share the author's lamentation that the legacy media, especially print media, has lost its charm and financial dividends. There is a subterranean factor that has been accelerating the diminution of the power of the fourth estate—the steady erosion of the reading habit.
**S Balu, Madurai**

### Internal distrust

Ref: *Rahul warns of weeding out black sheeps* (Mar 9). The success of any organisation depends on the firmness of its leadership. Rahul Gandhi's statement that half of his party's leaders are aligned with the BJP not only reflects distrust but also highlights the deep crisis within the Congress. This weakens party morale and diminishes workers' loyalty.
**R K Jain, Barwani**

### Women's safety

Another Women's Day has passed by with calls for greater participation of women in various fields. But the silence on women's liberation from sexual harassment, especially in workplaces, domestic violence, and other odds that make their life miserable in this country was deafening.
**George Jacob, Kochi**

### President's story

Ref: *'Self-reliant women will build Viksit Bharat'* (Mar 9). President Droupadi Murmu's words resonate deeply. Her journey from a humble background to the Rashtrapati Bhavan is a testament to her determination and self-reliance. Her story serves as a beacon of hope for women everywhere.
**Lawrence Vadukut, Thrissur**

### Pak lesson

Pakistan's early elimination from the cricket Champions Trophy and the final being moved to Dubai instead of Pakistan is a big embarrassment for them. It shows their declining cricket performance and the lack of trust in their security situation. Pakistan must realise that isolating itself on the world stage will only hurt them.
**T Kailash Ditya, Hyderabad**

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**POSTS OF THE DAY**

**Ashwini Vaishnaw** @AshwiniVaishnaw
PM Modi's commitment to sustainable development: over 45% power generation capacity from non-fossil fuels; 100 percent electric railway network by 2025

**Jairam Ramesh** @Jairam_Ramesh
The FM announced that GST rates will be reduced. Congress has long argued that not just reduction in GST rates, comprehensive reform of GST structure is needed

**Tejashwi Yadav** @yadavtejashwi
When our government is formed, we will bring 'Divyang Vikas scheme' for better facilities... monthly pension of ₹400 given will be increased to ₹1,500

# 'Despicable': MEA calls for action over vandalism at Hindu temple in US

**JAYANTH JACOB** @ New Delhi

INDIA has strongly condemned the vandalism at a Hindu temple in California, with External Affairs Ministry spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** calling the attack "despicable" and urging local authorities to take strict action against those responsible.

"We have seen reports regarding the vandalism at a Hindu temple in Chino Hills, California. We condemn such despicable acts in the strongest terms," the spokesperson said. "We call upon the local law enforcement authorities to take stringent action against those responsible for these acts, and also ensure adequate security to places of worship," he said.

A BAPS (Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha) temple in Chino Hills, California, was vandalised with hateful messages just days before the so-called 'Khalistani referendum' in Los Angeles.

The official BAPS page for the US shared details of the incident on the social media platform X, highlighting their commitment to combating hate, and said "peace and compassion shall prevail."

The BAPS Public Affairs wrote: "In the face of another Mandir desecration, this time in Chino Hills, CA, the Hindu community stands steadfast against hate. Together with the community in Chino Hills and Southern California, we will never let hate take root. Our common humanity and faith will ensure that peace and compassion prevail."

Meanwhile, the Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA) shared details of the incident, highlighting several other recent cases of Hindu temple vandalism and calling for an investigation.

**'Peace shall prevail'**

The official BAPS page for the US shared details of the incident on the social media platform X, highlighting their commitment to combating hate, and said "peace and compassion shall prevail." Coalition of Hindus of North America shared other cases

# Cybercrime probes focus on crypto transactions

## Data shows 2,500% rise in crypto-related forensic cases in 4 years

**MUKESH RANJAN** @ New Delhi

IN a move to strengthen investigations into cases relating to cyber crime, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to ramp up its efforts to track increasing cryptocurrency transactions, particularly since 2020, as an analysis of the data available with the agencies revealed that criminals are directly or indirectly using the digital currencies to launder and take away ill-gotten funds, sources said on Sunday.

The sources said the government had directed a random forensic analysis of virtual wallets and crypto transactions and the same revealed a massive increase, which have now become crucial to track activities like money laundering, fraud, and ransomware payments.

According to them, the data collected by the National Cyber Forensic Laboratory revealed that there has been a whopping jump in crypto-related forensic cases between 2020 and 2024, with figures going up from nearly 10 cases in 2020 to over 290 cases in 2024, showing an increase over 2,500 per cent, the sources said.

"For investigative agencies and for cyber forensic experts such a growth has become a major area of concern and plans are being worked out to keep a tab on this to make sure that criminals do not take advantage in taking away their illegal wealth," a source said.

According to another source, the spike in the number of crypto wallets and currencies also alerted the agencies to widen their focus to counter financial crimes associated with these, as the international regulatory framework has also been changing fast. In certain instances, it was observed that miscreants employed the same cryptocurrency investment platforms and thus, came under the scanner of law enforcement agencies, he said, adding that when agencies approached the operators, they refused to provide details of transactions worth crores. The sources said that between 2019 and 2024, he National Cyber Forensic Laboratory checked around 11,000 devices, which included mobile phones, memory cards, malwares, and hard discs, among others According to the data, a total of 11,203 device forensics (mobile forensics, memory forensics, malware forensics, video/image enhancement, audio forensics) and crypto helped investigative agencies detect such crimes.

According to cyber experts, analysis of hard drives, laptop CPUs, memory cards, and encrypted data is crucial for restoring erased or concealed informationand the number of investigations in the category has increased from 80 cases in 2019 to 690 in 2024, out of which 588 were just laptop/CPU analysis cases.

## INSIDER TRACK

### Independent Director posts vacant

Since the retirement of Ali Raza Rizvi, a 1988-batch IAS officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre, who was the last full-time Secretary of the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), progress on filling the growing vacancies for Independent Directors in central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) has stalled. Sources indicate that over 600 such vacancies currently exist. Following Rizvi's retirement, the DPE has been operating under an ad-hoc arrangement. Initially, Tuhin K. Pandey, a 1987-batch IAS officer from the Odisha cadre and then Finance Secretary, was given charge of the Secretary position. Pandey later became the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Pandey had aimed to fill at least half of the Independent Director positions by the end of 2024. However, his plans were hindered by additional responsibilities, including serving as Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) and Revenue Secretary. In January, Arunish Chawla, a 1992-batch IAS officer from the Bihar cadre, took over the DPE role but remains focused on his primary duties as Secretary to the Ministry of Culture and DIPAM. Independent Directors are crucial for ensuring corporate governance and protecting shareholder interests, even though they are not involved in the day-to-day operations.

### Tamil film & India-China relations

As India and China work toward normalizing their relationship following recent border tensions, China has been highlighting various symbols of their cultural ties, such as the image of a dragon and elephant duet. One frequently mentioned example is the Tamil action thriller Maharaja, directed by Nithilan Swaminathan and starring Vijay Sethupathi. The film, released in November, coincided with both nations' decision to take steps toward improving their relations. In just over a month, Maharaja is nearing the ₹100 crore mark at the box office. In January, Yu Jing, a spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in India, took to her X handle to share the film's box office success in China. She posted a poster of the film featuring the cast and wrote in the caption, "Maharaja has become the highest-grossing Indian film in China since 2018, reaching ₹91.55 crore." Since then, the Chinese have repeatedly referred to the film's success. Chinese Ambassador to India Xu Feihong spoke highly of the film's performance, emphasising that shared cultural interests, like Maharaja, could strengthen ties. Ambassador Xu, known to sing old Hindi songs, particularly enjoys the classic 'Awaara Hoon' from the 1951-film Awaara, starring Raj Kapoor.

### Wedding & Chouhan way of work

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was in Jodhpur this week for the wedding of his second son, Kartikey Chouhan, and Amanat Bansal, held at the historic Jodhpur fort. This marks the second wedding in his family within a month, as his elder son married on February 14. Chouhan's presence in Jodhpur has stirred both district and state agriculture staff, as well as his family and relatives. Known for his busy schedule, Chouhan often prioritises official duties, including virtual meetings and visits, over family time. However, he took time out to address thousands of farmers at the closing ceremony of the three-day Kisan Mela at the Agricultural University in Jodhpur. What was meant to be a one-hour event extended to three hours as he visited Kisan stalls a day before the wedding, making him absent from many wedding rituals. Despite the wedding, Chouhan continued his work, holding virtual meetings to monitor ongoing agricultural programs. He also introduced a unique vow for the couple to serve nature and conserve the environment at the wedding ceremony.

### Buzz over Delhi L-G reassignment

Following the exit of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi, there is speculation about Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena's possible reassignment to Punjab, West Bengal, or even Bihar. Saxena and AAP leaders have clashed on several issues, with AAP accusing him of interfering in the government's work. If a change in the Delhi L-G position occurs, the buzz is that former Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba or former Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar, both with conflicts with the previous AAP government, are potential candidates.

# Concerns flagged over green credit rules, SC intervenes

**JITENDRA CHOUBEY** @ New Delhi

THE Supreme Court has taken up environmentalists' concerns over inadequacies in the Green Credit Rules (GCR) of 2023 and sought the response of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). The shortcomings could adversely affect India's forest conservation efforts and compromise the rights of Indigenous people, green groups have argued. The MoEFCC has requested additional time to provide a detailed reply.

The GCR 2023, notified in February 2024, pertains to the granting of green credits for the plantation of tree species by corporations or entities. The rules are designed to incentivise environmentally positive actions through a market-based mechanism, allowing for the generation of green credits. These credits will be tradable in the market alongside carbon emissions.

However, environmental groups, such as Haryana-based People's Group for Aravalli and Goa-based Rainbow Warrior, filed a petition against the GCR, saying itwill ruin India's important forest landscapes, such as the 692-km Aravalli Ranges spread over four states and biodiversity hotspots, such as the Western Ghats.

The apex court took up the first hearing on March 4, directing MoEF&CC to file a detailed response. The petitioners argued that GCR exempts entities from planting tree saplings to get green credit only on the basis of species plantation. Entities don't have a responsibility to ensure the "survival" and "maintenance" of trees.

The major concern with such afforestation is the low survival rate. Evidence shows that survival rates range between 6% and 30% of the trees, which is contrary to the intention of such plantations. Different CAG reports showed that only 10% of trees survived in Madhya Pradesh, 28% in Uttar Pradesh, and 10% in J&K under afforestation programs. Even former Union Minister MoEF&CC, Prakash Jadekar, had lamented entities for the low survival rate of trees.

"Given this, grant of green credits only based on plantation defeats the purpose for which the green credit scheme was launched, i.e., to increase the green cover in the country," argued Neelam Ahluwalia, founder member of People for Aravallis group and one of the petitioners. Further, the GCR rules allow the plantation of 1100 trees per hectare without any scientific study in fragile ecosystems such as open forests, scrublands, wastelands, and catchment areas.

Experts say such dense plantations would only promote monoculture and increase the chances of pest infestations. They also disrupt ecological interactions.

**Grant of green credits only based on plantation defeats the purpose for which the green credit scheme was launched, i.e., to increase the green cover in the country**

Neelam Ahluwalia, People for Aravallis

# Former CJI Gogoi, lawyer Salve to depose before 'one election' House panel

**PREETHA NAIR** @ New Delhi

FORMER Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and senior lawyer Harish Salve will depose before the fourth and fifth meetings of the joint Parliamentary committee (JPC) scrutinising the 'One Nation One Election (ONOE)' bill, on March 11 and March 17.

Along with Gogoi, Justice Rajendra Menon, former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court and the Chairperson of the Armed Forces Tribunal, will also depose before the panel on Tuesday. Justice Ajit Prakash Shah, former Chairman of the 20th Law Commission of India and former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, will interact with the panel on March 17.

The parliamentary committee's agenda for the March 11 and 17 meetings is briefly listed as "interaction with legal experts".

Gogoi was nominated for Rajya Sabha in 2020, a year after his retirement as a CJI in November 2019. He presided over the Supreme Court for around 13 months, which was marred by many controversies. At the third meeting of the JPC, former Chief Justice of India U U Lalit said that the Bill will not pass legal test in the Supreme Court. Lalit also made several suggestions, including rolling out simultaneous polls in a phased manner.

During his deposition before the panel, Lalit said the concept of simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections was good in theory but several factors should be addressed for its smooth implementation. Besides Lalit, former Law Commission of India chairperson Ritu Raj Awasthi who attended the meeting, argued in support of the Bill. Awasthi was of the view that the Bill is in accordance with the basic structure of the Constitution and it doesn't violate the Constitution or undermine federalism.

However, several Opposition members criticised the Bill, claiming "one nation one election" will weaken democracy by tinkering with tenure of legislatures and impinge on people's rights.

# 59% Indians get less than 6-hour sleep: Survey

**KAVITA BAJELI-DATT** @ New Delhi

A latest survey on India's sleep pattern found that 59% of Indians get less than six hours of uninterrupted sleep, while only half of them are able to make it up on weekends.

There are many reasons for sleeping less, but the main ones are waking up to use the washroom, late or early morning schedules, external sounds, and even mosquitoes.

The survey by LocalCircles collected responses from over 40,000 people, including 61% men and 39% women. It found that only 39% were able to sleep for six to eight hours, while 39% managed four to six hours. It said only 2% got eight to ten hours of sleep, while 20% got only four hours.

"59% of citizens surveyed said they are getting less than six hours of uninterrupted sleep daily," the survey said.

The survey, conducted on the occasion of World Sleep Day 2025, which will be observed on March 14 this year, also examined why Indians are not able to get eight hours of sleep.

The survey, conducted in 348 Indian districts, found that 72% of people don't get good sleep because they have to use the washroom once or more during sleep time. 25% said they have late or early morning schedules, and mostly women said they must get up early for household work. Twenty-two per cent cited factors like mosquitoes and external sounds that keep them awake.

While 9% said they are not able to sleep because of interruptions caused by their children or their partners, another nine per cent said they have a medical condition like sleep apnea, a sleep disorder that causes breathing to stop and start during sleep.

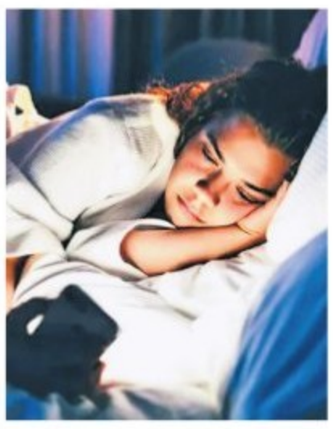
Nearly 6% blamed mobile calls and messages for not sleeping for eight hours. "72% of Indians surveyed who have sleep interruptions say they have to wake up to use the washroom; other interruptions include poor schedules, external sounds, mosquitoes, etc," the survey said.

The survey said that power napping, getting up late on weekends, and a siesta in the afternoon are some ways in which people try to compensate for their inability to have proper sleep on a regular basis.

The survey asked people how they make up for their lack of sleep during the week. While 23% said they sleep longer on weekends, 36% said they sleep on Sunday afternoons, and 13% accepted that they sleep longer on holidays.

However, an overwhelming 38% stated they are generally not able to make up for their lack of sleep, even on weekends. Sachin Taparia, founder of LocalCircles, said, "With 59% of Indians surveyed getting less than six hours of uninterrupted sleep, it is a concerning situation and an underlying health concern."

"Sleep deprivation in India is one of the highest in the world and leads to hypertension, risk of heart disease and stroke, metabolic disruption and cognitive decline," he told this paper. "For many Indians, dinner happens late, post 9 p.m. due to late working hours, long commute, etc., and the morning routine starts early for various reasons, thus shortening their available sleep window. If sleep quantity and quality have to improve, this has to change," Taparia added.



**9% blame children, 6% link it to mobile use**

While 9% said they are not able to sleep because of interruptions caused by their children or their partners, while another 9% said they have a medical condition like sleep apnea, a sleep disorder that causes breathing to stop and start during sleep. 6% blamed mobile calls and messages for not sleeping for eight hours. "72% of Indians surveyed who have sleep interruptions; other interruptions include poor schedules, external sounds, mosquitoes, etc."

# Ilaiyaraaja 1st Indian to perform 'valiant' western classical symphony in London

**SREEJITH M** @ Chennai

ILAIYARAAJA presented his "first ever western classical symphony," titled Valiant, at London's Eventim Apollo Theatre at midnight on March 9, Sunday. Joining Ilaiyaraaja in the historic event was London's famous Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, in what he described as a "special surprise performance."

This performance marked a major milestone in the composer's illustrious career. With it, he has become the first musician from the field of cinema in India to achieve this feat in London. He is also among first composers from India to utilise elements of Western classical music for film music, as well as the first to compose a full-length symphony. The event in London served as the world premiere or debut of Valiant.

Ilaiyaraaja recorded Valiant alongside the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. He recently shared a video showing what went behind the scenes during its making. At the time of its creation, Ilaiyaraaja even introduced himself to the Scottish orchestra and told its members that he "used to record a song or a film score" daily. He also told the team that it was a sudden decision to write a symphony in this genre. "When I started writing, I never thought I would record with you all," said the composer.

He has been showered with words of effusive praise since the announcement of the event earlier this year. Recently, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin described it as the "crown jewel among the countless achievements of Ilayaraja, a musical soul deeply intertwined with the lives of Tamils around the world."

He also presented an orchestra iteration of some of the most popular compositions from his career at the London theatre in March. The Western symphony adds to the musical maestro's growing body of work, which also includes albums such as How To Name It and Nothing But Wind.

PIC: X

**WOMAN BEHEADED**

A man was held for allegedly beheading his girlfriend when she asked him to marry her, police said. The probe began after a headless body was found near Jagannathpur village. The accused Faizan lured her to a canal, beheaded her with a makeshift weapon, and hid the head separately.

**5 LABOURERS** SUFFOCATE TO DEATH WHILE CLEANING MUMBAI WATER TANK

| INDIA | Max | Min | | Max | Min |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | 32 | 21 | Mumbai | 35 | 25 |
| Bhopal | 30 | 17 | Panaji | 36 | 26 |
| Jaipur | 27 | 17 | Patna | 31 | 19 |
| Amritsar | 22 | 10 | Lucknow | 29 | 14 |
| Chennai | 31 | 26 | Port Blair | 32 | 26 |
| Kolkata | 34 | 24 | Imphal | 24 | 14 |
| Srinagar | 10 | 02 | Chandigarh | 24 | 11 |

Three went missing on Mar 5 when they had gone for a wedding, bodies found from waterfall

# Minister sees terror link in Kathua deaths, home secy reviews security

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

A day after the corpses of three persons, who had gone missing on March 5, were recovered from a waterfall in Billawar area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, Union minister Jitendra Singh on Sunday attributed the "killings" to terrorists. The state government has ordered a 'thorough and transparent' investigation into the incident.

Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan also rushed to Jammu on Sunday to review the security situation. A high-level meeting was attended by top police officials, security and intelligence officials.

Three residents of Billawar area in Kathua, identified as Darshan Singh (40), Yogesh Singh (32), and Varun Singh (15), had gone missing on March 5 while attending a marriage function in the Lohai Malhar village in Billawar.

On Saturday, their bodies were recovered from upper reaches of Billawar after security forces deployed drones for aerial surveillance and located their bodies in a waterfall.

According to police, there were no injury marks in the bodies. "We are probing all angles and nothing can be ruled out," police said.

It is the second such incident in Billawar in the border district of Kathua in over a fortnight. Earlier on February 16, two civilians Shamsher(37), and Roshan(45), were found dead at Kohag village in Billawar in similar circumstances near the bank of a stream.

Senior J&K BJP leader and Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh blamed militants for killing of the trio. "The brutal killing of three youths by terrorists in Bani area of Kathua district is extremely sad and a matter of grave concern. There appears to be a deep conspiracy behind spoiling the atmosphere in this peaceful area," Singh, who represents the Udhampur Lok Sabha seat, posted on X.

He said it would be ensured that such incidents do not take place in the future.

J&K Lt Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha expressed pain and anguish over the incident. The L-G ordered a thorough and transparent investigation into the killings and necessary support to families. "I assure people that the perpetrators will be brought to book at the earliest. Justice will be ensured and accountability will be fixed".

The area and adjoining areas observed a complete shutdown on Sunday against the killings. The locals demanded thorough investigation to ascertain the cause of the deaths.

They also staged a protest sit-in to demand thorough investigation into the deaths and launch of a massive anti-militancy operation in the upper reaches to track down militants hiding there.

J&K leaders, including PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, Peoples' Conference chairman Sajad Gani Lone, BJP leader and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly Sunil Sharma, CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and J&K Congress president Tariq Hamid Karra, have condemned the incident and urged authorities to conduct a thorough probe to bring real culprits to justice.

REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

**L-G orders 'thorough, transparent' probe into incident**

J&K L-G Manoj Sinha ordered a thorough and transparent investigation into the killing of three relatives of a family in Kathua district. He said he was shocked and saddened beyond words at the "brutal killing" of the three. "I assure the people that the perpetrators will be brought to book at the earliest... accountability will be fixed," Sinha said.

# Day after fresh violence, shutdown cripples life in Manipur Kuki districts

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

AN indefinite shutdown crippled normal life in Manipur's Kuki-Zo dominated districts on Sunday. The shutdown was called by the Kuki-Zo Council condemning Centre's decision to "impose" free movement in the state despite being "fully aware" of potential violence. Some Kuki-Zo organisations, including Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), endorsed the shutdown.

"Yesterday, the government of India's decision to allow free movement of Meiteis through Kuki-Zo areas led to agitation and protest in Kangpokpi... ITLF extends its deepest respects to Mr Lalgouthang Singsit who sacrificed his life as well as to everyone who suffered injuries," an ITLF statement said.

Acting on the Centre's directive to restore free movement on all roads from March 8, the Manipur State Transport had operated two buses, one on the Imphal-Kangpokpi-Senapati route and another on the Imphal-Bishnupur-Churachandpur route, gaurded by Central Armed Police Forces.

The Kuki-Zo, who are opposed to free movement until a political solution for the community is reached, erected barricades on a national highway, putting boulders and burning tyres. When the state-run bus travelling to Senapati entered the Kuki-majority Kangpokpi district, protestors attempted to prevent its movement by pelting stones.

This led to a confrontation and the security forces used force to restore normalcy leading to clashes. One person was killed and over 40 others, including women, were injured in the incident.

Manipur police said there were incidents of firing from among protestors towards the security forces and the personnel retaliated.

"Due to heavy pelting of stones, use of catapults and random firing by armed miscreants from among protestors, 27 security personnel were injured, two of them grievously," Manipur police said, adding, "...sixteen protestors were reportedly injured and one protestor succumbed to injury. Two vehicles of security forces were also burnt by protesters." Kangpokpi remained tense on Sunday. However, there were no reports of any untoward incidents. Additional forces were rushed to the district for the maintenance of law and order.

## BHOPAL DIARY

ANURAAG SINGH
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### Won't wear ironed clothes for a year: MP minister

Known for headline-grabbing feats like cleaning drains and climbing electricity poles, Jyotiraditya Scindia-loyalist MP electricity minister **Pradumn Singh Tomar** has now vowed not to wear ironed clothes for a year to save electricity. Not ironing clothes saves half unit electricity and prevents carbon dioxide emission which can save four trees in a year, the minister said. The Congress, however, termed the minister's vow as another episode in his 'web series of gimmicks'. "If he is so serious about saving electricity and a clean environment, why doesn't he leave his fleet of vehicles and start cycling to work," Congress jibed.

### Minister urges Muslims to celebrate Holi

With the Hindu festival Holi on March 14 coinciding with the auspicious Friday during the month of Ramzan, MP's senior-most cabinet minister Kailash Vijayvargiya has appealed to Muslims to celebrate the festival of colours and participate in the festivities. "Who were your ancestors, find it out. They played Holi with Lord Krishna in Vrindavan. Holi is celebrated only once in a year, while Fridays come every week. Celebrating Holi with all of us will not be against Islam," Vijayvargiya said in his native Indore, after watching the Vicky Kaushal-starrer movie 'Chhaava'.

### MP, Rajasthan to moot religious tourism circuit

The Krishna Patheya, a religious tourism circuit linking pilgrimages associated with Lord Krishna's deeds will be developed by BJP-ruled MP and Rajasthan governments. "MP and Rajasthan share a unified vision regarding Lord Krishna's Patheya. In collaboration with the Rajasthan government, efforts will be made to develop Sri Krishna Patheya," CM Mohan Yadav said recently. Besides, Gujarat's aid will be sought to develop Sri Krishna's Gujarat Gaman Path. While chairing a meeting of the expert committee on the religious tourism circuit, Yadav said archaeologists, religious leaders, and renowned writers should be included in the committee to enrich its efforts.

# Sleepless from ceaseless wailing, mother murders twin infants in U'khand

NARENDRA SETHI @ Dehradun

IN a shocking incident, a woman in Haridwar district, Uttarakhand, has been arrested for the brutal murder of her six-month-old twin daughters.

According to police, the woman confessed to the crime, stating that she was driven to desperation by the constant crying of her infants, which prevented her from sleeping.

"I couldn't take it anymore," she admitted, revealing the harrowing circumstances that led to her actions. The incident took place in the Jwalapur Kotwali area, where the mother smothered her twin daughters with a pillow in a fit of rage. "She confessed to the act with unsettling indifference," a police official disclosed.

Haridwar SSP said, "The woman confessed during interrogation that her twin daughters would often cry day and night. She was unable to find even a moment's peace. Due to her young age at the time of marriage and the absence of any family support, her irritability increased over time."

Mahesh Saklani, an employee at a factory in the Sidcul area, filed a complaint expressing suspicions of murder following the sudden deaths of his daughters. He informed the police that his wife, Shubhangi, had gone to a nearby shop to buy milk while their two daughters were sleeping. Upon her return, she found both girls unconscious. They were rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared them dead.

"We began by questioning witnesses and reviewing nearby CCTV footage," a police official stated. The situation raised suspicions when it was revealed that Shivangi claimed to have left the house to buy milk, yet the CCTV footage did not show her leaving at that time. This discrepancy prompted police to intensify questioning. The woman eventually broke down and confessed to the crime.

Dr Rohit Gondwal, a psychiatrist, discussed the situation, stating, "Conditions such as postpartum psychosis, severe depression, or other psychotic disorders can contribute to such tragic outcomes."

# J'khand man lynched over goat theft, 4 held

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

A man was brutally beaten to death by villagers in Latehar in Jharkhand after he was caught stealing a goat. The incident occurred when the deceased, identified as Salim Khan, was found trying to take a goat while intoxicated.

Salim Khan, a native of Madhya Pradesh, worked as a daily wage labourer at a brick kiln in Gowa village. According to locals, Khan had been consuming alcohol with friends on Saturday night and attempted to steal the goat. When the goat's bleating alerted the homeowner, he raised an alarm, causing villagers to gather.

The villagers chased Khan, caught him, and severely assaulted him. Police arrived and rescued Khan before rushing him to Sadar Hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries.

Four persons have been arrested in connection with the incident. The police have stated that an investigation is underway, and appropriate actions will be taken.

"The police team took the injured person to the hospital after rescuing him from the villagers. Unfortunately, he died during treatment," police said.

# Centre has sealed over dozen peace pacts in Northeast: HM

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

IN a decade of governance, the BJP-led Centre has brokered over a dozen peace settlements, bringing stability to the Northeast, Union home minister Amit Shah said on Sunday.

"The Modi government ended Article 370, fulfilling a long-awaited demand. Over a dozen peace settlements have brought stability to the Northeast in the past decade. With the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, we've ensured 33% reservation for women in law-making institutions," the minister catalogued as he addressed a gathering of 11,000 newly-enrolled advocates during an oath ceremony organised by the Bar Council of Gujarat at Dadanagar Convention Centre in Adalaj.

On judicial reforms, Shah warned, "People still trust the system, but for how long? Justice delayed is justice denied. If verdicts take 20 years, faith will erode. That's why PM Modi has introduced three new criminal laws – ensuring a justice-centric, timely system."

"The outdated colonial-era laws – IPC, CrPC, and Indian Evidence Act – are history," Shah asserted. "India now moves forward with the Indian Judicial Code, Indian Civil Security Code, and a revamped Indian Evidence Act. From FIR registration to the Supreme Court, justice will be served within just three years."

Highlighting key reforms, Shah added, "Strict timelines are in place – charges heard within 60 days, investigations wrapped up in 90 days, and verdicts delivered within 60 days. Summary trials will fast-track cases, and the entire justice process is now fully digitised. This is Modi's vision – swift, transparent, and efficient justice for all."

On the legal system, Shah said, "In just two years, a new system will be in place where an FIR filed anywhere in India will see justice, even at the Supreme Court, within three years."

Amit Shah and Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel release commemorative ₹150 coin on the 150th birth anniversary of Jain Acharya Shrimad Buddhisagar Surishwarji Maharaj | PTI

**The Modi government ended Article 370, fulfilling a long-awaited demand. Over a dozen peace settlements have brought stability to the Northeast in the past decade... we've ensured 33% reservation for women in law-making institutions** – Amit Shah, Union home Minister

# PM lauds efforts as India gets 58th tiger reserve

MUKESH RANJAN @ New Delhi

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Sunday said that the country would always be at the forefront of protecting animals and contributing to a sustainable planet.

The Prime Minister's statement came after the country got its 58th Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh's Madhav Tiger Reserve has become the ninth Tiger Reserve in the state and the latest addition to India's conservation efforts.

While sharing Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav's announcement with regard to the new tiger reserve, the Prime Minister reaffirmed his Union government's commitment to protecting animals and contributing to a sustainable planet.

"Amazing news for wildlife lovers! India is blessed with wildlife diversity and a culture that celebrates wildlife. We will always be at the forefront of protecting animals and contributing to a sustainable planet," the Prime Minister wrote in his post on the social media platform 'X'.

While announcing the designation of Madhav Tiger Reserve, Bhupender Yadav, in his post, said, "58th roar and counting!" He also praised the dedication of forest officials.

"Thrilled to announce that the country has added the 58th Tiger Reserve to its tally with the latest entrant being Madhya Pradesh's Madhav Tiger Reserve. This is MP's 9th Tiger Reserve," the Union environment minister posted on his 'X' handle.

"I congratulate all wildlife lovers and conservationists. The development is a testament to the relentless efforts of our forest officials, who are selflessly working towards the cause," Yadav further noted.

Earlier this month, the Prime Minister took a lion safari in the Gir National Park in Gujarat on the occasion of World Wildlife Day.

The Prime Minister introduced the concept of Bruhad Gir, expanding the conservation focus beyond Gir National Park and Sanctuary to cover a 30,000 sq. km area from Barda to Botad, where Asiatic lions are found. With the development of Greater Gir, he also ensured the welfare and progress of local communities.

Announcing the designation of Madhav Tiger Reserve, Union Evironment Minister said, "58th roar and counting!" and praised dedication of forest officials | EXPRESS

**Blessed with biodiversity, our culture celebrates wildlife, says Modi**

Modi reaffirmed his government's commitment to protecting animals and contributing to a sustainable planet. "India is blessed with wildlife diversity and a culture that celebrates wildlife. We will always be at the forefront of protecting animals and contributing to a sustainable planet," the Prime Minister said in the 'X' post. Hailing the conversation efforts, the Union environment minister said the development is testament to the relentless efforts of forest officials, who are selflessly working towards the cause.

# Maiyan aid for 112 women diverted to Ranchi man's account, case filed

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

IN another controversy surrounding the Jharkhand government's Maiyan Samman Yojana, the financial assistance intended for 112 women were allegedly diverted to the bank account of a man in Tamar of Ranchi. Police has filed an FIR in this regard against Kartik Patar, and money recovery is under way, officials said.

Notably, a lot of irregularities came to light during the physical verification of The beneficiaries across the state are following reports that computer operators have committed huge fraud while filling out the forms for the scheme.

According to government sources, Kartik Patar's brother is the operator of a Pragya Kendra in Tamar. Taking advantage of it, Kartik Patar linked his accounts to 112 women registered with the scheme. Therefore, all the money was going into his account, it said.

"Kartik Patar has been arrested, and the police are also making preparations to take action against his brother," said Ranchi Deputy Commissioner Manjunath Bhajantri.

Bhajantri has also warned that ineligible people should get their names removed or strict action will be taken against them. "Information is being received that ineligible persons are taking advantage of the Maiyan Samman Yojana, and many have also applied for it. Such people should get their names removed, or strict action will be taken against them," said the DCP. The administration is verifying the applications thoroughly in each block, he added.

Notably, about 12,000 duplications have been caught in Ranchi district alone. These are the people who are also benefiting from other government pension schemes or the money of many beneficiaries that are going into a single account. Money has also been sent to the family members of those receiving government honorarium under this scheme.

As of now, names of one lakh ineligible beneficiaries have been removed from the list all over the state, while more than 12 lakh suspected applications have been kept on hold till the physical verification gets completed.

Earlier, several complaints of fraud related to Maiyan Samman Yojana were also received in Ranchi. Money under the scheme was also being transferred to the bank accounts of wives and daughters of some government employees. Complaints of similar irregularities were also received from Kasmar Block in Bokaro.

**8 injured**
As car rams dealership in the Los Angeles area on Saturday

**GLOBAL WEATHER**
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • LS: Light Snow • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Beijing | 18 | 6 | SNY | Los Angeles | 18 | 9 | SNY |
| Colombo | 32 | 25 | SNY | Melbourne | 26 | 18 | SNY |
| Dhaka | 31 | 22 | SNY | Moscow | 9 | 0 | LC |
| Dubai | 30 | 24 | SNY | New York | 11 | 4 | LC |
| Houston | 15 | 18 | SNY | Singapore | 31 | 26 | SNY |
| Istanbul | 7 | 4 | LR | Toronto | 3 | 1 | LS |
| London | 17 | 6 | LR | Washington | 16 | 4 | LS |



# 1,000 killed in deadliest Syrian violence in 14 years

Nearly 800 civilians among the dead in clashes between security forces and loyalists of ousted leader Bashar Al-Assad

**BEIRUT**

THE death toll from two days of clashes between Syrian security forces and loyalists of ousted President Bashar Assad and revenge killings that followed has risen to more than 1,000, a war monitoring group said Saturday, making it one of the deadliest acts of violence since Syria's conflict began 14 years ago.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said in addition to 745 civilians killed, mostly in shootings from close distance, 125 government security force members and 148 militants with armed groups affiliated with Assad were killed.

It added that electricity and drinking water were cut off in large areas around the city of Latakia.

The clashes, which erupted Thursday, marked a major escalation in the challenge to the new government in Damascus, three months after insurgents took authority after removing Assad from power.

The government has said that they were responding to attacks from remnants of Assad's forces and blamed 'individual actions' for the rampant violence.

The revenge killings that started Friday by Sunni Muslim gunmen loyal to the government against members of Assad's minority Alawite sect are a major blow to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the faction that led the overthrow of the former government. Alawites made up a large part of Assad's support base for decades.

Members of the Syrian security force on Saturday prepare to depart from Al Mastumah, Idilib province for coastal cities where clashes are happening | AFP

Residents of Alawite villages and towns spoke to The Associated Press about killings during which gunmen shot Alawites, the majority of them men, in the streets or at the gates of their homes. Many homes of Alawites were looted and then set on fire in different areas, two residents of Syria's coastal region told the AP from their hideouts. They asked that their names not be made public out of fear of being killed by gunmen, adding that thousands of people have fled to nearby mountains for safety. *AP*

# US Secret Service shoots armed man near White House

**WASHINGTON**

US Secret Service agents shot an armed man near the White House during the night, an agency spokesman said early Sunday, while President Donald Trump was spending the weekend at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida.

The man had been hospitalised and his condition was "unknown," the spokesman said in a statement that did not specify whether the White House or Trump may have been the intended target.

No injuries to Secret Service agents were reported, according to the statement posted by spokesman Anthony Guglielmi on social media platform X.

The agents had been warned by local police of a "suicidal" man travelling to Washington from Indiana and around midnight found his parked vehicle near 17th and F Streets, the statement said—very near the White House.

They then spotted an individual nearby who matched the description they had been given, the statement said.

Security forces deployed at the White House, Washington | AFP

"As officers approached, the individual brandished a firearm and an armed confrontation ensued, during which shots were fired by our personnel," the statement said.

"The suspect was transported to an area hospital and his condition is unknown," it said, adding that Washington police were investigating.

The Metropolitan Police Department will investigate because the shooting involved law enforcement officers. The police department declined to provide more details. *Agencies*

# UN calls for halt to fighting, says entire families being killed

**GENEVA**

THE United Nations on Sunday said reports of entire families being killed in northwestern Syria was "extremely disturbing" and it called for an immediate halt to the violence.

UN rights chief Volker Turk demanded prompt investigations into the killings and said those responsible must be held to account. Clashes between Syria's security forces and loyalists of the former government erupted on Thursday in the heartland of the Alawite minority to which ousted president Bashar al-Assad belongs, and have since escalated into reported mass killings.

Turk said in a statement: "There are reports of summary executions on a sectarian basis by unidentified perpetrators, by members of the caretaker authorities' security forces, as well as by elements associated with the former government."

He said that "we are receiving extremely disturbing reports of entire families, including women, children and hors de combat fighters, being killed" and demanded that "the killing of civilians in coastal areas in northwest Syria must cease, immediately".

Syrian interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa called for national unity and peace on Sunday, and Turk said announcements by the country's authorities to respect the law need to be followed by action to protect Syrians, and to ensure accountability for abuses.

"There must be prompt, transparent and impartial investigations into all the killings and other violations, and those responsible must be held to account, in line with international law norms and standards," it said. *AFP*

## *Russian force walk through pipeline to hit enemy from behind*

Russian special forces walked inside a gas pipeline to strike Ukrainian units from the rear in the Kursk region, Ukraine's military and Russian war bloggers reported

**15 KILOMETRES**

- Russian operatives walked about 15 km inside the pipeline, which Moscow had until recently used to send gas to Europe
- Some Russian troops had spent several days in the pipe before striking Ukrainian units from the rear near the town of Sudzha, blogger Yuri Podolyaka claimed

**DETECTED RUSSIAN PRESENCE: KYIV**

- Ukraine's General Staff confirmed Russian 'sabotage and assault groups' used the pipeline to gain a foothold outside Sudzha
- In a *Telegram* post, it said Russian troops were "detected in a timely manner" and that Ukraine responded with rockets and artillery
- "At present, Russian special forces are being detected, blocked and destroyed. The enemy's losses in Sudzha are very high," the General Staff reported

# CHINA TARIFFS ON US TO TAKE EFFECT TODAY

**BEIJING**

TRADE tensions between the world's two leading economies are set to escalate on Monday, as Beijing begins levying tariffs on certain US agricultural goods in retaliation for President Donald Trump's latest hike on Chinese imports.

Since retaking office in January, Trump has unleashed a barrage of tariffs on major US trading partners, including China, Canada and Mexico, citing their failure to stop illegal immigration and flows of deadly fentanyl.

After imposing a blanket 10% tariff on all Chinese goods in early February, Trump hiked the rate to 20% last week.

Beijing reacted quickly, its finance ministry accusing Washington of "undermining" the multilateral trading system and announcing fresh measures of its own. The moves will see fresh tariffs of 10 and 15% imposed on several US farm products, starting on Monday. Chicken, wheat, corn and cotton from the United States will now be subject to the higher charge while soybeans, sorghum, pork, beef, aquatic products, fruit, vegetables and dairy will face the slightly lower rate. Analysts say Beijing's retaliatory tariffs are designed to hurt Trump's voter base while remaining restrained enough to allow for a trade deal. The increasing trade headwinds add to difficulties faced by Chinese leaders currently seeking to stabilise the country's wavering economy. *AFP*

# Top American health agency makes $25,000 buyout offer to 80K staffers

**WASHINGTON**

MOST of the 80,000 federal workers responsible for researching diseases, inspecting food and administering Medicare and Medicaid under the auspices of the Health and Human Services Department were emailed an offer to leave their job for as much as a $25,000 payment as part of President Donald Trump's government cuts.

The workers have until 5 pm on Friday to submit a response for the so-called voluntary separation offer.

The email was sent to staff across the department, which includes the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and the National Institutes of Health as well as the Food and Drug Administration, both in Maryland.

The mass email went out to a "broad population of HHS employees," landing in their inboxes days before agency heads are due to offer plans for shrinking their workforces. HHS is one of the government's costliest federal agencies, with an annual budget of about $1.7 trillion that is mostly spent on health care coverage for millions of people enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid.

Protests outside the Health and Human Services Department | AFP

There was no immediate comment Sunday from HHS.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Trump's health secretary, has hinted at plans at deep cuts to the staff. Last year, he promised to immediately clear out all 600 employees at the NIH, the nation's biomedical research arm. He has not gone that far, but in an interview last month shortly after being sworn in last month, Kennedy said he wanted to remove some workers from the public health agencies.

"I have a list in my head," Kennedy said of potential firings at the agency. He said some workers "made really bad decisions" on nutrition guidelines.

The Trump administration, with the help of billionaire Elon Musk, has been trying to push out federal workers in an effort to cut costs. *AFP*

# US ends Iraq's waiver to buy power from Iran

**BAGHDAD**

THE United States has declined to renew a waiver that had allowed Iraq to buy electricity from Iran without running afoul of sanctions, a US official said on Sunday.

The previous waiver expired Saturday and the US Department of State did not renew it, the US embassy in Baghdad said in a statement.

The decision came as part of President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure campaign" on Iran, which is "designed to end Iran's nuclear threat, curtail its ballistic missile program and stop it from supporting terrorist groups," the statement said.

"We urge Iraqi government to eliminate its dependence on Iranian sources of energy as soon as possible, and welcome the Iraqi Prime Minister's commitment to achieve energy independence," the statement said.

Despite its oil and gas wealth, Iraq has suffered from decades of electricity shortages because of war, corruption and mismanagement and has become heavily reliant on imported Iranian gas as well as electricity imported directly from Iran to meet its electricity needs.

Power outages are common, especially in the scorching summer months. Many Iraqis have to rely on diesel generators or suffer through temperatures that exceed 50 degrees Celsius.

It remains unclear whether Iraq will be able to continue to import gas from Iran for its power plants.

The US embassy statement asserted that electricity imports from Iran were only 4% of electricity consumption in Iraq.

But a spokesperson for Iraq's Ministry of Electricity, Ahmad Moussa, said that should gas imports also be forbidden it "would cause Iraq to lose more than 30% of its electricity energy" and that the government is looking for alternatives. *AP*

# Israeli air strike in Gaza ahead of new truce talks

**GAZA CITY**

ISRAEL carried out an air strike on militants in northern Gaza on Sunday, rattling an already fragile ceasefire as it prepared for fresh talks in Doha on the future of its truce with Hamas.

Despite the end of the truce's initial phase a week ago, both sides have refrained from returning to all-out war, though there have been sporadic episodes of violence.

Sunday's air strike was the latest of daily strikes reported by Israel since Thursday. The Palestinian militant group has repeatedly called for an immediate start to talks on truce's second phase, which was negotiated by the US, Qatar and Egypt to bring an end to the war.

Israel says it prefers an extension of phase one until mid-April, and cut off aid to Gaza over the impasse. Hamas representatives met mediators in Cairo over the weekend, emphasising the urgent need to resume humanitarian aid deliveries to the territory "without restrictions or conditions", Hamas said. "We call on mediators in Egypt and Qatar, as well as the guarantors in the US administration, to ensure that the occupation complies with the agreement... and proceeds with the second phase according to the agreed-upon terms," Hamas spokesman, Hazem Qassem, told AFP.

Hamas's key demands for the second phase include a hostage-prisoner exchange, a complete withdrawal of Israel from Gaza, a permanent ceasefire, reopening of border crossings and lifting of the Israeli blockade, he said. Former US president Joe Biden had also outlined a second phase involving the release of remaining hostages, the withdrawal of all Israeli forces left in Gaza, and establishment of a permanent ceasefire. *AP*

Palestinian women walk near a fallen minaret of a destroyed mosque during the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan, in the Nuseirat refugee camp | AFP

# Refugees in Bangladesh brace for food shortage

**DHAKA**

ROHINGYA refugees in crammed Bangladeshi camps say they are worried about a US decision to cut food rations by half beginning next month, while a refugee official says the reduction will impact the nutrition of more than 1 million refugees and create 'social and mental pressure'. President Donald Trump abruptly stopped most foreign aid and dismantled the US Agency for International Development, which has significantly hampered the global humanitarian sector. Trump's Jan 20 executive order froze the funding for a 90-day review. The World Food Programme, the main UN food agency, recently announced that cuts to food rations will take effect from April 1 in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where dozens of camps are inhabited by Rohingya refugees. More than 7,00,000 Muslim Rohingya fled to Bangladesh from Myanmar starting in late August 2017 when Myanmar's military launched a "clearance operation". *AP*

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to bring the notice of the General Public that, my client intends to enter into an Agreement for Joint Development of the Property described in the below Schedule, from **Smt. B. Renuka**, W/o. B.Lokanadha Naidu, Sri.B. Lokanadha Naidu S/o Late Narayana Swamy Naidu, Sri.R.Rajagopal Naidu S/o Late Subramanya Naidu and Sri.Paturi Kranti Krishna S/o Y Poorna Chandra Rao And any person/s having any objections, claims, rights title or interest in or against by way of inheritance, mortgage, possession, sale, gift, lease, lien charges, trust or easement or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to make the same known, in writing along with documentary proof, to the undersigned, **within 30 days** from the date hereof, failing which the claim of such person/s shall be deemed to be waived and/or abandoned or given up and the same shall not be entertained thereafter, and the Joint Development Agreement shall be completed between my Client and the Vendors.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

**ITEM No.1:** All that piece and parcel of property in Sy. No.59/1B, measuring 1 Acre 10 Guntas including 1 Gunta Karab, Situated at Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded on: **East by :** Land bearing Sy No.59/1C, **West by:** Nala and land bearing Sy No.59/1A, **North by:** Government Tank, **South by:** Government Ooni and Sy No.61

**ITEM No.2:** All that piece and parcel of property in Sy No.59/1C measuring 1 Acre, Situated at Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded on: **East by:** Sy No.63/2, **West by:** Sy No.59/1B, **North by:** Government Tank and Sy No.58, **South by:** Government Ooni and Sy No.61

**ITEM No.3:** All that piece and parcel of property in Sy No.63/2 Measuring 1 Acres 25 Guntas, Situated at Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded on: **East by:** Government Road, **West by:** Sy No.59/1C, **North by:** Remaining Portion of Sy No 63/2, **South by:** Government Ooni and Sy No.63/3

**ITEM No.4:** All that piece and parcel of property in Sy No.63/2 Measuring 39 Guntas, Situated at Kengeri Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded on: **East by:** Government Road, **West by:** Remaining Portion of Sy No 63/2, **North by:** Maylasandra Village boundary and Radhaswamy's land, **South by:** Remaining Portion of 63/2.

Sd/- **A. SMITHA KARUMBAIAH,** Advocate No.5, Richmond Road, Bangalore-560025. Ph. No. 9945060086

**LOSS OF DOCUMENTS**

Public notice for the loss of My Sister **Mrs. Jacintha Veronica Almeida's** original registered sale deed dated 27/10/2006, and registered as document No.YAN-1-19224/2006-07 of Book -1, stored in C.D. No.YAND.243, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru is hereby given to the public. The above mentioned document/sale deed has been lost while shifting the house, and with regard to this police complaint also lodged in Lost Article Report bearing report SI No.1508711/2025 dated 06-03-2025 in Banaswadi Police Station, Bengaluru. However all persons are hereby informed that, if any one find the same kindly contact the below stated address as immediately.

**Date: 08-03-2025, Place: Bengaluru**

*From:*

**Mr. EDWARD D'SILVA,**
S/o.Late.Boniface D Silva
Aged about 65 years, R/at 1DC 326, HRBR 3rd Block, Kammanahalli, St. Thomas Town Post, Bengaluru – 560 084
**Ph: 9880045695**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public is hereby informed that my clients Mr. M R Vaishakh and Ms. Chaithra R are intending to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its owner Mrs. Mandakini Murthy W/o Mr. H K Srinivasa Murthy, and Mr. H K Srinivasa Murthy S/o. Late Dr. H R Krishna Murthy, both residing at No.240/K, Kaustubha, 2nd D Cross, 1st Phase, Girinagar, Hoskerehalli, Bengaluru-560085. Any person/s having any claim over the schedule property may lodge his / her / their objections or claims in writing along with all documentary evidence with regard to such claims, to the undersigned within **15 days** hereof, failing which my clients will proceed to complete the purchase. Any objections / claims received thereafter will not be entertained and not binding upon my clients.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of Site No.3663 (Old Site No.240/K, with East by Site No.249/N, West by Road, North by 240/J, South by Site No.240/L), carved in the Sy No.16, 17, 18 19 of Gerahalli Village and 101, 103/1, 103/2, 104/1, 104/2, 105 and 106 of Hosakerehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, by Viswabharathi House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd, in the IV Phase of Girinagar, Bangalore-560085, presently within the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike having PID No.54-452-3663, e-PID No.5467464530, measuring East to West - 60 feet, North to South 40 feet, in all 2400 square feet and bounded on:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| East by | - | Site No.3674 |
| West by | - | Road |
| North by | - | Site No.3662 |
| South by | - | Site No.3664 |

Together with duplex building constructed thereon consisting of ground floor and first floor measuring 950 st ft each, with RCC roof, vitrified flooring, doors and windows made up of jungle wood and with all civic amenities.

**Prasanna Simha H.K,** Advocate, No.1060, 1st Floor, 5th Cross 12th Main Road, Raghavendra Block, Srinagara, Bengaluru-560050. Mobile: 9845466920.

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₹24,753 CR Foreign investors continue to pull back money in the first week of March.

# SGBs: Things to do for early redemption

Since gold prices may move higher, investors who can remain invested in Sovereign Gold Bonds will be benefitted

DIPAK MONDAL @New Delhi

SEVERAL tranches of Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGBs) are coming up for premature redemption in April and May 2025. These include bonds issued in October and November 2017, as well as some tranches from as late as 2021. Investors can apply for early redemption starting from March 17, 2025. While SGBs have an 8-year maturity period, early redemption is allowed after completing the fifth year.

The key question for investors is whether to opt for premature redemption now or hold the bonds until maturity—especially for those nearing the end of their tenure. The 2017-18 series of SGBs will complete their full 8-year term later this year. Investors in this series may consider holding on a little longer, given the current bullish momentum in gold prices.

### Why holding make sense

Many analysts believe that ongoing uncertainties in global equity markets, coupled with escalating trade tensions, will continue to support gold prices. Recent moves by former US President Donald Trump—including raising import duties on goods from Canada, Mexico, and China, and proposing reciprocal tariffs on other countries—have heightened economic uncertainty. This has reinforced gold's status as a safe-haven asset. Given this outlook, analysts expect gold prices to remain firm or move higher. Therefore, investors whose financial situation allows may benefit from remaining invested in SGBs until maturity later this year. Investors who subscribed to the 2017-18 SGB series have already seen significant capital appreciation. Many bought bonds at prices below ₹3,000 per unit, while current prices hover around ₹8,700 per unit—yielding substantial returns even before considering the 2.5% annual interest paid on these bonds.

### Redemption price, interest

The redemption price of SGBs is determined based on the simple average of closing gold prices (999 purity) published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA) over the last three business days before the repayment date. In addition to capital appreciation, SGB holders earn an annual interest of 2.5%, paid semi-annually. The final interest payment is made along with the principal at maturity.

### How to apply for premature redemption

To redeem SGBs before maturity, investors need to approach the issuing bank, post office, or agent at least 30 days before the coupon payment date. The requests for premature redemption must be submitted at least one day before the interest payment date to be processed.

### Tax Implications

If you plan to redeem your SGBs, keep in mind the interest income from SGBs is taxable as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961. However, capital gains from redeeming SGBs on maturity are exempt from tax for individual investors.

IN CONVERSATION

**DEEPALI AGRAWAL**
*Deputy Managing Director, Exim Bank*

# 'Reciprocal tariff to impact pharma, textiles sectors most'

WITH $87.4 billion, of the $322-billion merchandise exports in 2024, coming from the US alone, which has threatened to slap 25% duties on our shipments from April 2, is our largest trading partner with 27% of all exports. Of this, domestic companies have shipped goods worth $87.4 billion to the US, up 4.5% from 2023, while we imported goods worth $41.8 billion, up 3.4% from them, taking the bilateral trade to close to $130 billion. But with reciprocal tariffs getting kicked off from next month (no word on services tariffs yet), exports face an uncertain future. Amidst this rising uncertainty, the Export and Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has held discussions with exporters and also provided their inputs to the commerce ministry on the potential impact of the duty hikes on our exports, which will be significant, **Deepali Agrawal**, deputy managing director, Exim Bank, tells TNIE's **Benn Kochuveedan**. Edited excerpts:

**The US has announced 25% tariffs on our goods exports. What is Exim Bank's assessment of the impact of the trade war on our exports?**
A lot of work is being done because the majority of our exports are to the US. Since the US is our largest trading partner, it will have a significant impact. The exact impact will depend on what the demands are coming in from their side. The problem is that our exports are too concentrated in the US. We have given our inputs to the government on the impact of the reciprocal tariffs that the US will be imposing on our goods from April 2. We've also held discussions with exporters.

**What are the suggestions you have given to the ministry?**
I can't give you the specifics of what we have told the government. But our view is that we must diversify our export basket to other markets like Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, where we see a lot of interest for our goods. The point is that shifting or diversifying our focus to other markets should not be merely because of issues with the US. It should be done for the long-term benefits so that issues in one market should not upset our trade in the future. As part of our outreach, we have just opened an office in Sao Paulo, Brazil. We already see a lot of interest being generated from that office.

**The biggest impact will be on pharma as our companies have the maximum exposure to the US market. Another sector that will have a significant impact will be textiles.**

**What is your assessment of the likely dumping by China as it also fights higher US tariffs?**
The biggest dumping threat will come from Chinese steel mills, which have already been dumping for quite some time. The government has already announced investigations on this.

**Which are the sectors that will be hit the hardest?**
The biggest impact will be on pharma as our companies have the maximum exposure to the US market (around 43% of general medicines sold in the US are made by our companies). Another sector that will have a significant impact will be textiles. Engineering goods will also be impacted.

**Is the bank seeking capital infusion from the government this year or next as the ministry is pushing for $1 trillion merchandise trade?**
We are well-capitalised now and so not looking for capital infusion from the government. In fact, for the next few years we don't need extra capital to fund our business. Currently, our equity capital is ₹20,000 crore and the capital adequacy ratio is 26. We have more than enough growth capital with us. Normally we borrow $3 billion annually, of which 70% are from overseas markets, mostly in dollars, and the rest from domestic sources. But since the pandemic our project export finance, which is around 40% of our assets, has been slowing. Thankfully it has started a marginal revival. This fiscal we've raised only $1 billion in debt and there is no need for funds now.

MONEY-WISE

# TAME VOLATILITY FOR CREATING WEALTH

FINANCIAL ADVICE

**PV SUBRAMANYAM**
*writes at www.subramoney.com and has authored the best seller 'Retire Rich - Invest ₹40 a day'*

INVESTING in a volatile market can feel like navigating a storm, but with the right strategies, you can manage risks and even find opportunities. There's a Tamil saying 'you can't wait for the tides to stop if you want a dip in the ocean'

Here's a practical breakdown based on timeless principles and current market dynamics!

**1 Understand and accept volatility**
Volatility means rapid price swings—up and down. It's driven by uncertainty, economic shifts, geopolitical events, or market sentiment. Right now, markets might be reacting to inflation concerns, interest rate changes, or tech sector disruptions, geo-politics, etc. Knowing why the market's jittery helps you stay calm and strategic. However, trying to specifically find out which factor impacts how much is a total waste of time.

**2 Diversify your portfolio. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Spread investments across:**
- Stocks: Mix stable large cap, mid-cap, small-cap MFs.
- Debt mutual funds – less risky than bonds.
- Commodities: Gold, silver – again mutual funds not the commodity directly.
- Cash: Keep some liquidity to scoop up bargains when prices drop.
- REITS – a small way of participating in the expensive retail market.

**3 Focus on quality**
Invest in companies with:
- Strong balance sheets (low debt, high cash reserves).
- Consistent earnings, even in downturns.
- Competitive advantages (e.g., brand loyalty, patents).

**4 Rupee-cost averaging**
Instead of timing the market, invest a fixed amount regularly. When prices dip, you buy more units; when they rise, you buy fewer. Over time, this smooths out the rollercoaster and reduces emotional stress.

**5 Look for opportunities**
Volatility creates mispricing. Oversold stocks or sectors (e.g., energy during a dip or biotech after a panic sell-off) can be bargains if you've done your homework. Research fundamentals—don't just chase hype.

**7 Stay long-term**
Short-term volatility is noise. If your horizon is 5+ years, temporary drops matter less. Historically, markets recover and grow—think Sensex's resilience since 1979.

**8 Manage emotions**
Fear and greed spike in volatile times. Stick to a plan. Avoid panic-selling at lows or FOMO-buying at peaks. Data backs this: emotional investors underperform disciplined ones by 2-4% annually.

**9 Consider defensive assets**
- ETFs: Low-cost funds which require a lot of understanding of business cycles
- REITs: Real estate trusts can offer steady income if rates stabilize.
- Cash equivalents: Bank FD or money market funds keep powder dry.

**10 Stay informed, not obsessed Check broader trends—RBI moves, earnings reports, X sentiment—but don't overreact to daily noise.**

Volatility isn't your enemy—it's a test. Play it smart, and you'll weather it.

MONEY MATTERS

# WHY SURGING HOUSEHOLD WEALTH IS GOOD NEWS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

**RAJAS KELKAR**
*(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)*

INDIVIDUAL investors are the largest group in the stock market after promoters. The latest data published in the National Stock Exchange monthly bulletin reveals that individuals account for 9.8% of the market directly and 18.2% when their mutual fund share is added. "Individuals thus own more of the Indian markets than FPIs—the first time since 2006," the bulletin states.

That is good news for the depth of the Indian capital markets, which can stay relatively calm even if foreigners continue to exit.

The other interesting factor is about the household wealth. It has increased rapidly and can significantly affect India's future stock market wealth and consumption. It is now estimated at ₹79.6 lakh crore, growing at an average 10-year rate of 21.3%. It is just under $1 trillion, which is way higher than $500bn worth of Indian equities owned by foreign portfolio investors.

Predicting human behaviour is like predicting the rains. Despite a lot of data and information, it is hard to determine future actions. Factors beyond the standard data now affect the weather and us. Stock market trends are hard to predict, too.

You need knowledge and an understanding of how you react to situations to manage your money.

The NSE publishes a monthly bulletin with information that is easy to understand. Similar bulletins are published by the Reserve Bank of India, the Securities and Exchange Board of India and the Bombay Stock Exchange. To get a sense of financial trends, you must try to read these once a month. You may learn something new. Things you feel are tough to understand; you can ignore them if you do not have anyone to help make sense of them. However, getting into a habit of figuring out future trends could be a helpful habit while investing.

The stock market wealth combined with the gold held by the households makes India's consumers a potent force. Analysts believe the value of gold Indian households hold is well over $1 trillion.

The households that control that stock market wealth would use it to buy real estate or other assets. They may continue to buy more stocks as new initial public offerings hit the market over the next few years. It is a unique opportunity for businesses to list in India and raise the money needed to fuel growth.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Households can also use that money to spend on luxury, foreign or domestic holidays, weddings, or other key life goals. That is excellent news for the Indian economy if some portion of the stock market household wealth is used for spending. For India to grow faster, domestic consumers must spend more on lifestyle products. It would be even better if such products were manufactured in India.

### What does it mean

If you are a long-term investor in India, there is no reason to panic. While share prices have been hammered over the past few months, it offers an opportunity for Indian investors to enter the market or add more quality companies to their portfolios. The analysis of corporate profits in the NSE bulletin also predicts weaker profit growth for companies in 2025-26. However, many companies expect urban consumption to increase in the second half of 2025-26 and do even better a year later.

If share prices continue to fall, the valuation of Indian shares will soon become attractive for all investors. For those not into direct investing, index or exchange-traded funds offer a good way to gain exposure to equity assets. There is a tendency to cut exposure to systematic investment plans and mutual funds when share prices fall. To benefit from equity asset gains, you must ride through multiple cycles over 10-15 years. There are no free lunches.

# India-European Union trade talks to resume today

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

AS the 10th round of talks on India-EU free trade agreement begins on Monday in Brussels, tariffs on agricultural and industrial goods, regulatory alignment, investment protection, and sustainability commitments remain key issues of contention between the two parties.

As far as tariffs are concerned, the key issues of differences between the two sides are agricultural tariffs, especially on dairy, wine import duties and tariffs on automobile imports. The EU is pushing for India to cut tariffs on cheese and skimmed milk powder, which India currently shields through high duties to protect its domestic dairy industry.

"The EU's complex tariff system for agriculture makes negotiations particularly challenging. It applies Non-Ad Valorem tariffs on 915 agricultural tariff lines, which significantly raise the effective duty rates on imported products," says Ajay Srivastava, founder, Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI). As for wine, European winemakers are pushing for greater access to the Indian market, where imported wines currently face a 150% tariff. The EU wants India to eliminate or significantly reduce these duties to 30-40% levels, says Srivastava of GTRI. India may like to match what it offered to Australia under the India-Australia ECTA.

# HyFun Foods looks to raise funds from PEs, capital market

DIPAK MONDAL @New Delhi

HYFUN Foods, a Gujarat-based frozen food manufacturer, is drawing interest from several venture capital and private equity funds as it plans to double its manufacturing capacity by 2026 and expand its product portfolio. The company, with annual revenues of ₹1,000 crore, is also considering an initial public offering (IPO) within the next 2-3 years to raise capital for future growth.

Haresh Karamchandani, Managing Director & Group CEO of HyFun Foods, told TNIE that private equity funds have shown interest in investing. "We are weighing our options—whether to approach the capital market directly or raise funds through a PE round before listing," he said. According to Karamchandani, several investment bankers have already approached the company, indicating it is ready for a public offering.Founded in 2015, HyFun Foods specialises in potato-based frozen foods such as French fries and hash browns. The company exports 70% of its products, primarily to Southeast Asia and Gulf countries. Recently, it began supplying to Walmart, the largest retailer in the US.

With a target of ₹5,000 crore in revenue by 2028, HyFun has embarked on an aggressive expansion strategy. It plans to double the capacity of its Ahmedabad facility from 26 metric tonnes per hour (MTPH) to 50 MTPH by 2026, with an investment of ₹1,000 crore over the next year. "Becoming a listed company will not only help us raise capital for expansion but also enhance brand recognition," he added. The company is already growing its presence in MP and plans to set up a new manufacturing facility there by 2028, with an additional investment of ₹500 crore.

# PepsiCo to double India revenue in five years

PTI @New Delhi

PEPSICO aims to double its revenue in India over the next five years, viewing the country as a 'key anchor market' where it is making "aggressive" investments to expand its capacity, its India & South Asia CEO Jagrut Kotecha said.

India will be the "engine of growth for PepsiCo" in driving its global revenue, as it ranks among the top three markets for the food, snack, and beverage multinational, where the company is experiencing double-digit growth, Kotecha said.

PepsiCo has invested in greenfield plants in Uttar Pradesh and Assam, focusing on staying ahead of the demand curve, Kotecha said, adding the company will not be "investment shy" in India and plans to open two more facilities, including one in the southern region.

"We believe India will be the engine of growth for PepsiCo to drive the top line. Yes, it's not as big as North America because it is a lot more evolved category. Our per capita consumption in India is still very low, not only for us on beverage and food, but we would expect one of PepsiCo's fastest growing economies to do that," Kotecha said.Currently, India ranks among the top 15 markets globally for PepsiCo. However, Kotecha expects the country to move up the ranks, though he refrained from sharing any specific projections.

> It's been amazing, we wanted to bounce back after a tough Australia tour. Lovely playing with a bunch of amazing youngsters. They're stepping up and taking India in the right direction. — Virat Kohli

> I'm not going to retire from this format, just to make sure that no rumours are spread going forward. No future plans. *Jo ho raha hain, woh chalta jayega* (Whatever is happening will keep continuing) — Rohit Sharma, India captain

India's KL Rahul (L) and Ravindra Jadeja celebrate after winning the ICC Champions Trophy final | AP

After multiple heartbreaks, India win 50-over world title in the format they have been dominating since 2013

# CT OF DREAMS

GOMESH S @Chennai

RAVINDRA Jadeja was looking at the ball, the most significant pull he has ever played, while running across the pitch at the Dubai International Stadium. The moment he knew the ball was heading for a four, he collided into William O'Rourke. He had no idea who was in front and he didn't care. Neither did Rahul who had his arms aloft, soaking it all in before being embraced by Jadeja. They are Champions of the world.

India have beaten New Zealand by four wickets to win their first 50-over world title since 2013. In many ways, it was a long overdue triumph and it showed in the emotions displayed. Varun Chakravarthy, Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh ran on to the field, overjoyed. Away in the dug out an elated Virat Kohli let it all out with assistant coach Abhishek Nayar before playing dandiya with his captain Rohit Sharma using the stumps. As the head coach Gautam Gambhir walked down onto the ground, he was lifted over the shoulders by Jadeja. They know what this victory meant. And they know it did not come easy.

Yes India did overpower every team that they played en route to the summit clash but the final step, the most important one, was not a walk in the park. At least not during the chase. The target of 252 always seemed achievable, but New Zealand were not going to lay down on the tracks for India. Even when Rohit went berserk in the powerplay as the Men in Blue raced to 64/0, the Black Caps remained unfazed. They kept at it, knowing all they needed was a couple of wickets to put the brakes on.

> Not sure I can say this on air but I was s****** myself. As confident as I could be that I could get over the line. Keeping composure is all that matters, happy to have done it.
>
> — KL Rahul

And it happened in the 19th over as Shubman Gill fell against the run of play to a stunning catch from none other than Glenn Phillips. Virat Kohli walked in to the biggest roar only to be silenced in just two deliveries by Michael Bracewell. When Sharma fell six overs later, the pendulum had swung back to the middle. The Indian captain went for an attacking shot, much like he did on November 19, 2023 against Australia in the ODI World Cup final, and was stumped for 76 runs in 83 balls. Sharma did make a massive dent for New Zealand up front, but the game was far from over.

With Shreyas Iyer and Axar Patel in the middle, Mitchell Santner and Rachin Ravindra, Phillips and Bracewell built the pressure. They made sure India did not run away with chase. Slowly, but eventually, pressure got to India. Iyer got out after a well made 48, Axar fell shortly after for 29, bringing together the heroes of the semifinal — Rahul (34) and Pandya (18). And they did not disappoint.

As Jadeja hit the winning shot, it seemed like destiny had finally rewarded what is arguably the greatest ODI team India have ever had. They came close in 2017 but Pandya got run out and a no ball cost them. In 2019, Black Caps and the brilliance of Matt Henry and Martin Guptill caught them short. They almost had it in 2023 but Travis Head intervened.

For a team that has been the best in the format since 2013, India had zero ODI titles to show since. They have dominated bilaterals, consistently reached knockouts, have more wins (156) than any other team since lifting the Champions Trophy at Lord's in 2013. India have the highest win/loss ratio (2.108) — 0.553 more than New Zealand who are second — in the last 12 years.

In Sharma and Kohli, they had the best batters of the generation — who have 68 centuries to show and has scored more than 18,000 runs cumulatively in this period. They had Mohammed Shami, Kuldeep Yadav and Jasprit Bumrah with the ball and arguably one of the greatest athletes India have ever produced in Jadeja. But for one reason or other, they could never go past the final hurdle. The trophy kept eluding. They could never be called Champions of the world.

Fittingly, the wait came to an end on Sunday in Dubai with Rahul — the player who faced the most criticism after the ODI WC final — taking them home. There they were on the stage, along with Sharma, Kohli, Jadeja (the three members from 2013 CT-winning squad) and others, lifting the trophy. They and India are indeed the Champions.

**SCOREBOARD**

**New Zealand:** Young lbw Varun 15, Ravindra b Kuldeep 37, Williamson c&b Kuldeep 11, Mitchell c Rohit b Shami 63, Latham lbw Jadeja 14, Phillips b Varun 34, Bracewell not out 53, Santner run out 8, Smith not out 0; **Extras:** (LB-3, W-13) 16; **Total:** (For 7 wickets in 50 overs) 251; **FoW:** 1-57, 2-69, 3-75, 4-108, 5-165, 6-211, 7-239; **Bowling:** Shami 9-0-74-1, Pandya 3-0-30-0, Varun 10-0-45-2, Kuldeep 10-0-40-2, Axar8-0-29-0, Jadeja 10-0-30-1; **India:** Rohit st Latham b Ravindra 76, Gill c Phillips b Santner 31, Kohli lbw b Bracewell 1, Iyer c Ravindra b Santner 48, Patel c O'Rourke b Bracewell 29, Rahul not out 34, Pandya c & b Jamieson 18, Jadeja not out 9; **Extras:** (W-8) 8; **Total:** (For 6 wickets in 49 overs) 254; **FoW:** 1/105 2/106 3/122 4/183 5/203 6/241; **Bowling:** Jamieson 5-0-24-1, O'Rourke 7-0-56-0, Smith 2-0-22-0, Santner 10-0-46-2, Ravindra 10-1-47-1, Bracewell 10-1-28-2, Phillips 5-0-31-0.

Rohit Sharma led from the front in the powerplay on Sunday | PTI

Full story: newindianexpress.com

## WHERE THE MATCH WAS WON....

**Middle-overs chokehold**

It was always going to be the template. India spin quarter putting the brakes on the opponents in the middle-overs. The final was no different as New Zealand managed to scrap 103 runs between overs 10-40 while Kuldeep Yadav, Ravindra Jadeja and Varun Chakravarthy all accounted for wickets (four of them). The other spinner, Axar Patel, bowled a miserly spell of 0/29 in eight overs, operating at 3.62 economy.

**Kuldeep spins a web**

By his standards, Kuldeep had not been at his best through the tournament. In fact, India's primary wicket-taking spinner had taken a backseat with Varun becoming the protagonist. However, on the big day, the left-arm spinner came to the party. Right from ball one he looked in rhythm and showed why he is one of the key match-winners with the ball for India. In a span of two overs, he removed both Kane Williamson and Rachin Ravindra to put India on front foot.

**Skipper Sharma shows up**

He is the man who transformed the way India batted in the 50-over format. He is the man who led India to an ICC tournament win after 11 years. He is the one who stepped up to change the powerplay batting in the country. However, through this tournament, on slowish Dubai pitches, Sharma hadn't been able to make an impact. To make it all up, when it mattered the most, he rose to the occasion. Sharma smashed bowlers across the park in the powerplay before building a crucial innings of 76 from 83 balls, setting up India's chase.

**Redemption for Rahul**

He faced the burnt more than anyone for the knock in the 2023 ODI World Cup final in Ahmedabad. As he did in the semifinal against Australia, Rahul once again ensured that Sunday was not a repeat of November 19, 2023. At a time when it seemed like New Zealand could swing momentum in their side, he remained unbeaten to take India to glory, first with Hardik Pandya, and then with Ravindra Jadeja. Picked ahead of Rishabh Pant, Rahul repaid the faith Rohit Sharma and head coach Gautam Gambhir placed in him.

**263** Rachin Ravindra was the leading runscorer of the tournament folowed by Ben Duckett of England

**10** Matt Henry topped the wickets tally with Varun Chakravarthy next (9 wickets)

**38** Number of overs by Indian spinners, their third-highest in an ODI, in the final

**0** India have never lost an ODI till date at the Dubai International Stadium

# Ro, a massive hit as captain leads cultural reset

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

WHEN Rohit Sharma was given the keys to India's cricketing kingdom following a below-par 2021 T20 World Cup campaign, it came with a significant caveat. Make them a serial (and a serious) winning machine at ICC events. Everything else could take a back seat. Sharma was identified as the man for this particular mission for multiple reasons but his successes with Mumbai Indians carried significant heft. You get all the resources, no questions asked. Give us the trophies those resources demand. You may be richer than God but if there's nothing to show for those riches, what's the point of all those riches in the first place?

So, the opener, the owner of more daddies in world cricket in the 50-over format than any other batter, decided to change. His very precise style of leadership is all about clear communication, 4K clarity and more importantly, getting everyone onside with his vision. Henri Fayol, one of the fathers of management, put forth the value of esprit de corps (team spirit) and Sharma practised it. Tough love was no-no. He was the captain and he believed in setting the tone, taking accountability and owning his decisions. Like he did at Bengaluru after his team were bowled out for 46 on the second morning against the Kiwis after opting to bat first on a grey morning. In a wild departure from a lot of previous captains, he fronted up at the press conference and owned it. Hence, it's not difficult to see why this batch of players are prepared to break open a bank vault for him.

His leadership style also involved him taking one for the team — think Ron Weasley playing wizard's chess in the Philosopher's Stone to make it easier for Harry Potter. One of ODI cricket's great openers had, almost overnight, decided to become a sort of Shahid Afridi like figure at the top.

From striking at a shade under 96 from the beginning of 2015 till the end of 2021 (24 100s), he's now scoring at least 116 runs (Afridi's career strike rate is 117) every 100 balls faced since 2022 (three 100s). How has he done this? He's now willing to take more chances in the powerplay but is also happy to go in search of more hits over the fence.

From 2015 to 2021, his fours to six ratio was over three. The last 40 months? 2.15. All this has resulted in his average falling off the staircase but this is the sort of culture he wanted to set with the bat. For multiple ICC events cycles, the batting unit was good but it was accused of being a touch medieval. Wicket preservation and not taking enough risks through the middle overs were significant charges. Sharma himself was the beneficiary of a systemic issue but he vowed to change it.

"After the T20 World Cup in Dubai," he had told a TV show, "we felt there needs to be a change in our attitude. ... how we play the game. We had a clear message and they were ready to accept it. If the messages are clear from the captain and the coach, individuals will try and do that. For that, they need freedom and clarity which is what we are trying to do. We are trying to give them as much freedom as possible." Actions, though, always speak louder than words, especially in elite sport. Would the opener be up for relearning the grammar of the sport he had helped write?

Betcha.

Apart from India's spinners asphyxiating the opposition batters through the middle overs, one of the main points of difference has been the way he has broken up the game in the powerplay with his hedonistic display of batsmanship.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

# Spin it to win it: Slow & steady makes never-seen-before global impact

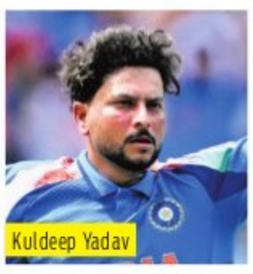
GOMESH S @ Chennai

AT one point during the New Zealand innings — after 37 overs — in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 final, the scorecard at the Dubai International Stadium read 161/4. It might seem below par, but this is the slow Dubai surface and Glenn Phillips had started counter-attacking, getting the Black Caps' innings back on track with Daryl Mitchell at the other end.

India needed a wicket, and they needed it sooner than later. That is when captain Rohit Sharma turned to Varun Chakravarthy for his third spell. To an extent, it was a move made out of necessity rather than just a tactic. The mystery spinner, despite giving the early breakthrough in the powerplay, hadn't been able to make further inroads. He had bowled seven overs, giving away 1/33, and had made Mitchell look clueless.

That is not just why Rohit turned to Varun. He did so because spin was the way to go. India stuck to that template through the tournament and Sunday was not going to be any different. In fact, it was the trend of the tournament in itself. And it worked. Varun cleaned up Phillips, gave India the control they needed before finishing with 2/45. And it is not just him, the four spinners India fielded — Ravindra Jadeja (1/30), Axar Patel (0/29) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/40) — had ensured they just gave away 144 runs in 38 overs while accounting for five of the seven (one run out) wickets that fell during the New Zealand innings. Wickets. That is what spinners brought to the table in this edition. Till the end of the first innings of the final, they took 73 wickets in 13 matches cumulatively across teams. You break it down, it comes to approximately 5.6 scalps per match for spinners. Barring the 2011 Men's ODI World Cup — a 49-match tournament played across India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh — no other 50-over men's ICC event had seen spinners play such a massive role. In the 2011 ODI WC, spinners accounted for almost six wickets per match (5.91). However, in 2011, the rules of the format were different. Only one new ball was used, the powerplay rules were different and part-time spinners had a significant role to play. Case in point was India who used Yuvraj Singh as their fifth bowler for the better part of the tournament.

The last time a Champions Trophy saw spinners play a vital role was in the inaugural edition — Wills International Cup (1998/99). That was 27 years ago, when the tournament was played in Bangladesh. This edition, in many ways, was peculiar for that reason. For starters, the hybrid model in which the event was being played meant Dubai hosted five of the 13 matches (two were abandoned in Pakistan). And the slowish Dubai pitches came into play. As many as 35 wickets fell to spin (till the first innings of the final) in five matches, with Indian quartet accounting for 26 of them. In contrast, Mohammed Shami had taken only four wickets in as many matches after the fifer against Bangladesh.



Kuldeep Yadav

Varun Chakravarthy

Ravindra Jadeja

Axar Patel

Full story: newindianexpress.com

**FIVE-STAR SHOW**

Chennaiyin's Daniel Chima Chukwu (R) in action against Jamshedpur FC on Sunday. Chima scored two as Chennaiyin won 5-2 to finish ISL season on a high | P JAWAHAR

# Arsenal held by United; Chelsea win

AGENCIES @ London

ARSENAL'S slim title hopes turned slimmer as the Gunners were held 1-1 by Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday. With the result, Arsenal are now 15 points behind league leaders Liverpool with 10 games to play. Liverpool, meanwhile, have nine games left.

On the day, Bruno Fernandes scored a brilliant free-kick to put United in front. Declan Rice brought the game on level terms with an inch-perfect strike from outside the box. Arsenal goalkeeper David Raya made some notable saves to keep Mikel Arteta's team in the game. In another match, Chelsea boosted their bid to qualify for the Champions League with a 1-0 win over Leicester, while Tottenham fought back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Bournemouth.

Arsenal's Declan Rice (L) scored the equaliser against Man United on Sunday | AFP

**EXPRESS READ**

### Wade joins Gujarat Titans' support staff

NEW DELHI: Gujarat Titans named former Australia wicketkeeper Matthew Wade as the team's assistant coach ahead of the IPL 2025. Wade was with Gujarat for two seasons as a player — in 2022 and in 2024 — but was not part of the IPL mega auction following his retirement from international cricket.

### Real Kashmir post win to close gap at top

SRINAGAR: Real Kashmir FC moved to third spot in the I-League standings with a hard fought 2-1 win over relegation-battling Aizawl FC at the TRC Turf Ground here. Real Kashmir's fifth straight home win, and fourth in the last five overall, took their tally to 32 points in 18 ties, two behind both Churchill Brothers and Inter Kashi.

### Bad day at office for Djokovic, Alcaraz cruises

INDIAN WELLS: Five-time champion Novak Djokovic tumbled out of the Indian Wells ATP Masters on Saturday, falling in his first match to lucky loser Botic van de Zandschulp as two-time defending champ Carlos Alcaraz advanced. Djokovic made 37 unforced errors to lose 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 while Alcaraz posted a 6-4, 6-2 victory over France's Quentin Halys.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
BENGALURU, MONDAY
10.03.2025

EDUCATION EXPRESS
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UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

| NSET | JEE SESSION 2 | JMI ENTRANCE EXAM |
|---|---|---|
| Date: March 16, 2025 | Date: April 1 to 8, 2025 | Date: April 26, 2025 onwards |



STUDENT'S VOICES

**SAGAR KUMAR, Vice-President, Technology Students' Gymkhana**

"At IIT Kharagpur, you don't just earn a degree — you collect moments, friendships, and lessons for life. The Hall traditions, entrepreneurial spirit, and inspiring alumni network push us to grow beyond books. The camaraderie shapes leaders and innovators"

**MUSKAN KHEMKA, Editor, Technology Students' Gymkhana**

"The balance of theory and hands-on learning, along with global exposure through programmes like SAIP, makes KGP unique. The close-knit campus community fosters friendships that last a lifetime, setting us apart from metropolitan IITs"

**YASHIKA ANEJA, General Secretary, Social & Cultural**

"From chai at Cheddis to late-night hostel debates, every moment at IIT Kharagpur is vibrant. Spring Fest, lively discussions, and a dynamic student culture makes this campus an unforgettable experience — one that truly feels like home"

# IIT KHARAGPUR: BEYOND BOOKS & DEFINED BOUNDARIES

**Saumya Solanki** attempts to unveil the vibrant campus life, research, and rich traditions that shape the IIT's spirit

**Kshitij: Asia's largest techno-management fest**

Kshitij is a premier platform for students to test their technical and managerial skills through 40+ events. With international recognition from UNESCO, IEEE, and ACM, the fest hosts high-stakes competitions, insightful workshops, and inspiring guest lectures, fostering innovation and global exposure.

## Calendar events that strike a chord

**Spring Fest: The cultural heartbeat**

Spring Fest, the annual social and cultural festival, has been a vibrant celebration of youth for over five decades. Attracting students from 150+ colleges in the past, it has offered diverse competitions, electrifying Star Nights with artists like Sunidhi Chauhan and Farhan Akhtar, and an underlying social message, making it more than just entertainment.

it's a date

**Illumination & Rangoli: Festival of lights**

One of IIT Kharagpur's most unique traditions, Illumination sees student halls decked with bamboo panels (*chatais*) and thousands of oil lamps, forming intricate artwork. Held on Diwali, it's a breathtaking display of creativity and teamwork. Alongside, the Rangoli competition showcases stunning designs using coloured powders and crushed bangles, adding to the festive spirit.

*THESE EVENTS DEFINE THE IIT KHARAGPUR EXPERIENCE, BLENDING CULTURE, TECHNOLOGY, AND TRADITION IN UNFORGETTABLE WAYS*

## A List of campus life highlights

**Best hangout spot:** Gymkhana or lakeside

**Best canteen on the campus:** HJB hall canteen

**A favourite library spot:** Central sofa

**Craziest campus tradition:** Festival celebrations like Diwali's Illumination and Janmashtami *handiphod*

**Best time to be on campus:** During Spring fest

**Unwritten Rules:** Orientation programme participation is mandatory. Also, don't skip your birthday bumps — because once you're back, you're in for a double dose of 'love' (and maybe a few extra kicks)

**Most competitive club/society:** E-Cell

**Most Insta worthy spot on campus:** ADDA

**Most mysterious spot:** Old Architecture building

**Rumours and Superstitions :** A mystery about the entire architecture batch of 1960s

**The midnight hunger savior:** RP Canteen

RESEARCH & INNOVATION HUB

## Innovating the future: Research & breakthroughs at the institute

**Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI & ML)**

**iWeld:** AI-powered software for detecting, localising, and classifying weld defects from radiography images | By Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing Technology, Prof Surjya K Pal

**iToFD:** AI-based software for accurate detection and sizing of weld defects using ultrasonic Time-of-Flight Diffraction (ToFD) data | By Centre of Excellence in Advanced Manufacturing Technology, Prof Surjya K Pal

**Healthcare & biomedical innovations**

1. **Hemo App, a reagent-free rapid screening of anaemia using paper strip & smartphone:** Uses blood pattern complexity on a glycerine-saturated filter paper to determine anaemia levels | By Department of Mechanical Engineering, Prof Sampad Laha, Prof Subhamoy Chatterjee, Prof Kunal Kumar, Prof Aditya Bandopadhyay, Prof Suman Chakraborty
2. **Handheld point-of-care device for blood plasma separation & metal ion detection:** A nano-structured semiconductor electrode for ultra-fast blood plasma separation and real-time biomarker detection | By Department of Mechanical Engineering
3. **Florigin Technology: Cardiovascular Replicator (CVR) System for ventricular Assist Device Testing:** Simulates diseased heart conditions for in vitro testing of heart implants | By Department of Mechanical Engineering

**Agriculture and environment**

**By Agricultural and Food Engineering Department**

1. **Development of agricultural drones, autonomous robots, and automated guided vehicles (AGVs)**
2. **Hydroponics & vertical farming innovations:** Research on digital agriculture techniques such as hydroponics and vertical farming
3. **Micro-irrigation techniques for water conservation:** Development of cost-effective irrigation systems coupled with rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge
4. **Soil quality sensing units:** Non-invasive technology for assessing soil quality, including bioethanol production from organic waste
5. **Ozone depletion study in the tropics:** Research confirming no severe ozone depletion in the tropical stratosphere, refuting previous claims | By Prof Jayanarayanan Kuttippurath, Centre for Ocean, River, Atmosphere and Land Sciences (CORAL)

**Mechanical & Electrical engineering innovations**

**Motor current signature analyser for remote fault detection:** A portable system to monitor induction motor conditions, including faults, power factor, and load torque | By Prof AR Mohanty, Mechanical Engineering

**Six degrees of freedom rail-wheel contact simulator:** A test setup simulating real-world railway wheel-rail interactions for wear, fatigue, and traction-slip studies | By Department of Mechanical Engineering

## A rich legacy that dates back to 1951

**Prof Amit Patra, Director, IIT Kharagpur, says, "We are nurturing not just scholars, but yogic individuals ready to impact the world"**

**What next**

They are launching inter-disciplinary programmes that integrate AI, robotics, and sustainability. They are also investing in advanced research facilities and smart classrooms

Prof Amit Patra, Director, IIT KGP

WE are nurturing not just scholars, but yogic individuals ready to impact the world," says Prof Amit Patra, Director of IIT Kharagpur. In a conversation with **EdexLive**, he talks about the institute's legacy, AI, student well-being, and fostering a holistic learning environment.

**● Being the oldest IIT, tells us about the institute's legacy.**

I am proud to lead an institution with a rich legacy dating back to 1951. With a sprawling 2,200-acre campus, we have grown into a premier institution offering 50 undergraduate, 67 postgraduate, and numerous doctoral programmes. We were the first to establish a Super Computer in India and continue to lead cutting-edge research in AI, robotics, and sustainable development.

Today, we focus on interdisciplinary collaboration, with over 770+ faculty members and several research centres that partner with industries and global universities.

**● IIT Kharagpur's CSE department has always stood out. What goes into ensuring that the courses offered under CSE remain in sync with current academic and industry standards?**

We update our curriculum every two to three years, incorporating feedback from over 500 industry partners and alumni from top firms like Google and Microsoft. Our CSE department offers specialised courses in AI, ML, Data Science, and Cybersecurity, ensuring relevance to cutting-edge technology. We engage in impactful research with over 50 faculty members. This approach keeps our courses relevant.

**● Tell us about placements.**

With a record of achieving a breakthrough in Career Development Centre (CDC) Placements for 2024 with the benchmark of 1747 placement offers, the institute accomplished a new landmark of receiving the fastest 1000+ offers within Day 3. Noteworthy to mention, through the CDC in the academic year 2023-24, our students secured 36 international offers, nine students received compensation packages exceeding ₹1 crore on Day 1.

**● What is the best way for students to harness the power of AI without compromising their learning experience or academic development?**

The best way for students to leverage AI is by integrating it into the learning process without replacing the essential skills and understanding of the subject.

First, they should focus on building a foundation in fundamental concepts before applying AI tools to enhance their work. Students can utilise AI for data analysis, simulations, and problem-solving, but should ensure that their critical thinking and analytical abilities remain central to their research.

**● What does IIT Kharagpur do to offer students a balanced development?**

With over 100 student-run clubs in areas ranging from music, drama, and dance, to entrepreneurship and sports, students have the chance to pursue their passions, build vital life skills, and form lasting relationships. We also prioritise interdisciplinary activities, organising workshops, competitions, and more.

> We encourage our students to adopt a holistic approach to managing stress — by maintaining a healthy study-life balance

## Placement trends

**What numbers say and how the IIT enabled the students**

**KEY PLACEMENT STATISTICS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Total placement offers (2024) | 1,747 |
| Fastest 1,000+ offers | Achieved within Day 3 |
| International offers (2023-24) | 36 |
| Students with ₹1 crore + packages (Day 1) | 9 |
| Highest CTC (2023-24) | ₹1.69 Cr (International Offer) |
| First phase offers (2024-25) | 1,401 |
| International offers | 25 |
| Pre-placement offers (PPOs) | 469 |
| Companies participated | 315+ |
| Highest package (2024-25) | ₹2.14 cr per annum |
| Internship offers (2024-25) | 680+ |

**Industry trends**

**Popular sectors**

- Software
- Analytics
- Finance & Banking
- Consulting
- Core Engineering

**An Academia-industry conclave** was hosted involving top companies within the first four days of the placement process. This was aimed at enhancing industry visibility for students

**CHALLENGES FACED BY STUDENTS**

- Intense competition
- Skill gaps
- Overwhelming expectations
- Narrow focus on core roles
- Time management

**SUPPORTING INITIATIVES BY IIT KHARAGPUR:** ● Workshops and resume-building sessions ● Mock interviews ● Career counselling

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT**

**Sundararajan Pichai**

BTech (Honours) in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering; 1993

CEO of Alphabet Inc, Google's parent company

**Vinod Gupta**

BTech in Agricultural Engineering; 1967

Managing Partner, Everest Venture Group

**Arjun Malhotra**

BTech (Honours) in Electronics and Electrical Communication Engineering, 1970

Co-founder of HCL

**Dr Kiran Seth**

BTech in Mechanical Engineering, 1970

Professor in the department of Mechanical Engineering at IIT Delhi since 1976

**Dr Anand Deshpande**

BTech in Computer Science, 1984

Founder, Chairman, and Managing Director of Persistent Systems

## If the walls could talk – Campus stories & events that shaped history

**From detention to distinction: The legacy of IIT Kharagpur's main building**

IIT Kharagpur stands as a testament to India's journey from colonial subjugation to technological prowess. Before becoming a premier educational institution, the main building served as the Hijli Detention Camp, a colonial-era prison where numerous freedom fighters were incarcerated.

Notably, in September 1931, two unarmed detainees were fatally shot within its confines, an event that intensified the freedom struggle. In 1951, this very site was transformed into the first IIT, symbolising a metamorphosis from oppression to enlightenment. Today, the Hijli Martyrs' Memorial stands adjacent to the main building, honouring those who sacrificed for the nation's freedom.

**The 2016 student protest**

In December 2016, IIT Kharagpur students staged a protest against a proposed 20% hike in hostel fees. The demonstration saw students gherao-ing the director, registrar, and other officials overnight, demanding a re-consideration of the fee increase.

The protest concluded after assurances from the administration to address the students' concerns, reflecting the active engagement of the student body in institutional decision-making.

**HIDDEN GEMS**

1. The Gymkhana, along with the Lakeside, is a cherished space where memories are made throughout the year.
2. A trip to the Helipad offers a breathtaking perspective of IIT Kharagpur's vast campus—making it a must-visit spot.
3. Halls are more than just residences; they define daily routines, from sports and games to small yet meaningful moments shared with friends.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

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10.03.2025
MONDAY

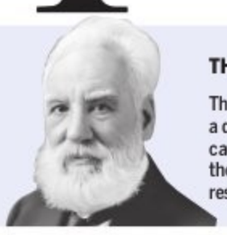
**DAY'S DIARY**

## The First Ring

Alexander Graham Bell made the first successful telephone call on this day in 1876 and said, "Mr. Watson, come here, I want to see you."

**THE INVENTOR**

Bell was a Scottish-American inventor, scientist, and teacher whose accomplishments were inventing the telephone and refining the phonograph



**THE DEVICE**

The device mechanism involved a diaphragm's vibration which caused a needle to vibrate in the water, varying the electrical resistance in the circuit

**HIS LEGACY**

Graham's telephone is the forefather of the cordless phone and 80 percent of today's telephone systems that use fibre optics

**CE's guide to happenings in the city**

PG 2

Sudha Murty at Ficci Flo's Women's Day event

PIC: SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

Crediting her family for her success, Padma Bhushan awardee and Member of Parliament Sudha Murty who took to the stage on Women's Day to reflect on her journey, shared empowering insights

# 'AND THAT IS WHY I AM VERY SUCCESSFUL'

ANJALI RAM

AT 17 and a half, I told my father, who was a doctor, that I wanted to do engineering, at a time when it was unheard of for a woman to get into engineering," said **Sudha Murty**, recalling the moment that kick-started her career and set her on the path of being a woman who has donned many hats – engineer, writer, philanthropist, and now, an MP. Murty, who recently released her book *The Circle of Life*, and whose Kannada biography *Saadhaneya Shikhara* was released on Sunday, continued, sharing the obstacles that lay in her way, hailing from a community where women were conditioned to excel in domestic roles and not beyond that, "A few people said, 'If you do engineering, no boy from northern Karnataka will marry you'...everybody gave their own piece of advice."

Speaking at a Women's Day event, the audience turned silent listeners as Murty recounted the challenges she faced in, first, attending college, and then, having to walk over two kilometres to use the restroom. "I decided whenever I have money, I will do it [construct toilets], because I know what it is to be a woman and not have a toilet." Despite this, Murty has a firmly positive outlook, believing that challenges are what make one confident, she said, "I learned a lot from life. All adversity became my teacher, you should have difficulty in life. Don't make yourself grow up without difficulty because it makes you confident. Confidence comes when you solve a challenge."

When the non-profit, Infosys Foundation, was formed under her aegis, this cause was on her agenda, leading to the construction of around 14,000 toilets. Recalling the initial times of Infosys, she recounts her decision to lend ₹10,000 to her husband NR Narayan Murthy to start the company, an act of trust rather than foresight, and something she never expected would result in the global tech giant. "I never expected he would return it... Initially, when we got money, it felt like a jackpot, then I realised the point of it. Every night when I sleep, I ask this question - why did I get this money? If you have a mass of wealth more than what you need, it has a lot of negative repercussions. God gave me wealth so I can serve the poorest of the poor."

Crediting her success to the support of her family, she said, "Behind every successful woman there is an understanding man. It could be your father, your brother, your husband, your son-in-law, or all four. But unless the family is supportive, it's very hard for a woman to succeed. And that is why I am very successful." Murty added, "It's also true for a man. Because if the man is successful, there is a lady who walks along with him, not behind."

Signing off with an empowering message to all the women, Murty said, "A woman becomes happy when she makes her own choices. All of it will become natural, over a period of time because it's a big change for us. For hundreds of years, our grandparents, our grandmothers, great grandmothers, were oppressed, and now the pot is open."

> *Every night when I sleep, I ask this question – why did I get this money? If you have a mass of wealth more than what you need, it has a lot of negative repercussions. God gave me wealth so I can serve the poorest of the poor*
>
> Sudha Murty, philanthropist

PIC: ALLEN EGGENUSE J

**'B'LURU HAS ONE OF THE MOST HAPPENING CROWDS'**

This week in *CE*, watch out for a candid interview with musician Kailash Kher, who performed at Bowring Institute on Saturday night

# BEAUTY IN BRUISES

Dutch artist Bouke de Vries's new installation utilises broken ceramic vessels traded between India and South Asia

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

PICS: KARTHIK SAIRAM

FOR most people, ceramics, whether they are pieces of pottery or delicate China, are meant to be held with caution, lest they fall and shatter into a million little pieces, losing their functionality, value, and beauty. But for London-based Dutch artist, **Bouke de Vries**, the beauty lies in this fracture. With his new installation Memory Vessels at the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP), Kasturba Road, he does not attempt to put pieces back together to recreate what the ceramic once was, but eulogises them in tall glass urns that surround anyone who walks in, as if he has gathered up their brokenness and brought out their jagged beauty, nudging the viewer to notice it too.

The installation is part of de Vries' ongoing project of the same name, exhibited in galleries across the world, using ceramics of different styles and histories. For each work, he finds broken pieces that fascinate him and encases them in glass replicas of the original object. This fascination with repair and preserving memory can be traced back to de Vries' time spent working as a conservator. "Once, I restored a beautiful 2,000-year-old Roman glass urn, which would have been for cremation ashes. Later, I thought, what if you apply a cremation urn to an object – a ceramic vase itself? I put the fragments inside and then, the glass is a memory of its past," he says.

However, like memories themselves, the shards are not neatly contained within the glass but sit like spikes upon it, lay scattered around it, and in one work, the glass is shattered, exposing the mass of pottery underneath. De Vries explains, "Some of the glass had cracks but rather than discarding it, I tried to find a way to incorporate them using the Japanese gold repair technique of Kintsugi. The damage is part of history and rather than trying to hide it, you accentuate the repair. Which, for me, is a really beautiful thought. That's why I work with broken things. Just because something is broken doesn't mean that it's not beautiful anymore."

For the installation at MAP, at the suggestion of its founder Abhishek Poddar, de Vries chose to use approximately 3-4 feet tall earthen jars used for trade between India and other South Asian countries, a scale he hasn't worked with before. "I initially said it's really difficult because they can't make glass that big here in the UK. And he said, 'We can in India'! It was a magical opportunity to expand what I'm doing. And so, we also decided to use food storage jars that were traded between India, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka, and encase them in glass made in Bengaluru," he says, adding, "It is a different way of working for me, because I usually do everything myself. It was an amazing surprise to work with other creators that helped me with achieving something."

# Through the lens of life

Photographer Sanket Reddy chats with *CE* about his debut coffee table book *The Viewfinder*, which has a foreword by actor R Madhavan and captures the intersection of art and environmental conversation

ANJALI RAM

AT a time when every day feels like a marathon, a slow Sunday morning once in a while reminds us how it feels to reconnect with life and nature again. Watching birds, feeling the breezy air, absorbing nature wholly as an escape...for wildlife photographer **Sanket Reddy**, this disconnect from the mundanity of the city was not a mere luxury but something that happened organically through his profession.

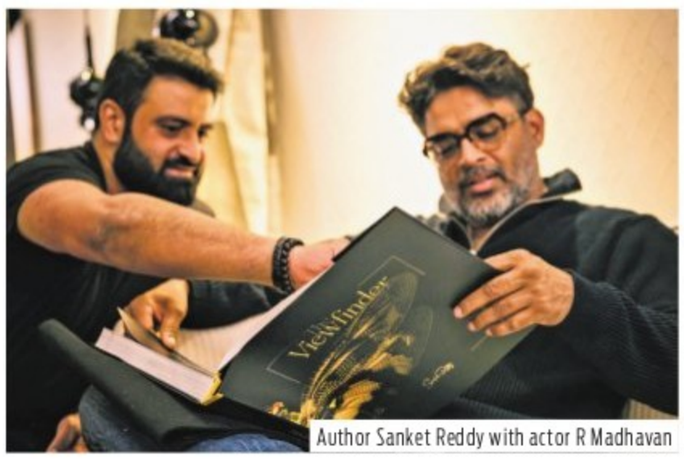
He recently launched his debut coffee table book, *The Viewfinder* (White Falcon Publishing, ₹3,999). "My love for nature drives my photography. I'm more interested in capturing nature's beauty rather than just creating an image," Reddy shares. With a foreword from actor R Madhavan, who champions wildlife causes, the book advocates for environmental conservation through art. "*The Viewfinder* isn't merely a collection of photographs; it's a journey of discovery, a pilgrimage to the heart of existence. Through Sanket's artistry, we are reminded of the profound interconnectedness of all living beings, and the sacred duty we hold to cherish and protect our planet's biodiversity," pens Madhavan in the foreword.

The genesis of the book was the need to tell the world his learnings from the wild and their connection with human lives. With a little push from well-wishing friends, he made his 291-page book a reality. "My biggest inspiration was when people would read what I wrote and told me that it helped them get through the day; when they were having a bad day, it gave them a different perspective. So I thought it deserves to be out there so that I can maximise helping as many people as possible," says Reddy.

For Reddy, the biggest challenge was 'filtering out the images to a limited few' while also considering the book's overall flow. "I had to curate something where the reader could open it on to any one and it would have a story of its own with a pictorial representation," he says.

Art and conservation are uniquely blended by the author. "The art aspect is covered by my imagery and conservation is covered through the text that deals with the life lessons of wild animals' behaviour, their status, information on whether they are critically endangered or not, and what are the needs to protect them," Reddy explains.

With over 160 carefully-chosen pictures across nine categories with simple captions, the book is accessible even to children below 11. In a world grappling with environmental issues, Reddy believes his book can act as a bridge to connect with nature and raise awareness. "Photography helps people relate to their lives and importantly, accept the planet as a shared space. Each one of us is playing an integral role no matter how big or small," he stresses. "I want to get people more connected with nature; when people are more connected with nature, they will be more thoughtful of their actions," he adds.

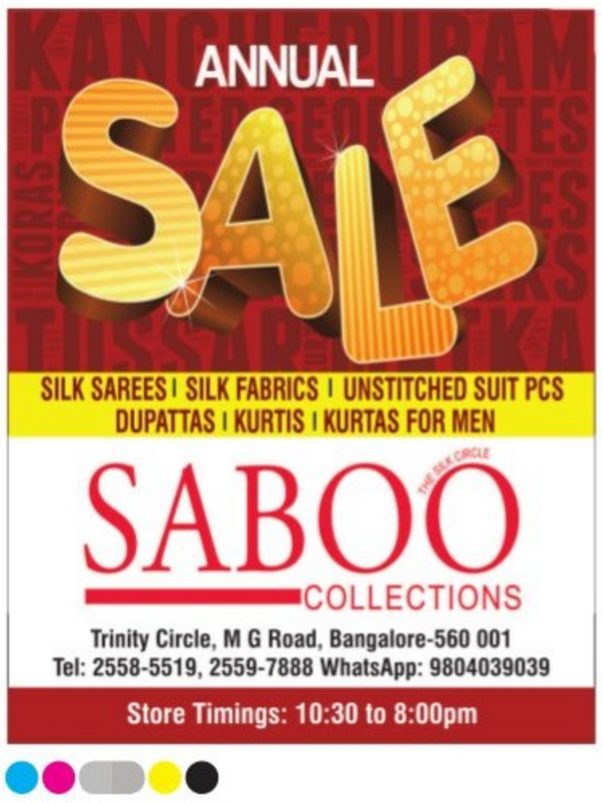


Author Sanket Reddy with actor R Madhavan

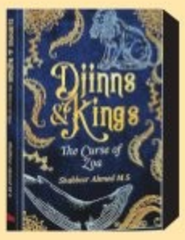
**CITY READ**

### Educational institute celebrates International Women's Day

Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Yelahanka, in association with the Institution of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineers, Bangalore, celebrated International Women's Day on March 8 to raise awareness about gender equality. The event welcomed Manjula V Kadetotad, senior programme manager, Synopsys, as the chief guest. It was also presided over by CV Ravishankar, chairman of IETE.

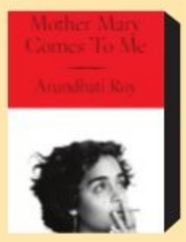

ANNUAL
SALE
SILK SAREES I SILK FABRICS I UNSTITCHED SUIT PCS
DUPATTAS I KURTIS I KURTAS FOR MEN
SABOO
COLLECTIONS
Trinity Circle, M G Road, Bangalore-560 001
Tel: 2558-5519, 2559-7888 WhatsApp: 9804039039
Store Timings: 10:30 to 8:00pm

## BOOK NOOK




### Djinns & Kings: The Curse of Zoa
**by MS Shabbeer Ahmed**

This book dives into a thrilling fantasy adventure about Rhuzbeh's quest to lift a curse from the djinn city of Afra-Zun, exploring the complexities of love, heroism, and power.




### Mother Mary Comes to Me
**by Arundhati Roy**

A memoir by Arundhati Roy, the book is a deeply personal and inspiring account of her life, shaped by her complex relationship with her mother.

### The Legend Of Meneka
**by Kritika H Rao**

A mythological fantasy novel that retells a Hindu myth where celestial dancer Meneka is sent to seduce sage Kaushika to disrupt his meditation but unexpectedly falls in love.

### Bring it on: The Incredible Story Of My Life
**by Deepa Malik**

In this autobiography, Deepa Malik shares her journey of overcoming spinal tumours and paralysis to achieve success and become India's first female paralympic medalist.

**IN THE LIMELIGHT**

Actor Ramya at the 16th edition of the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes). *Turn to P4 for the full interview* | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

## QUICKFIX

### DIET RABRI

**INGREDIENTS**

- **Cashew:** 50g
- **Saffron:** 1 pinch
- **Sweet potato:** Medium size 1 and half
- **Nolen gur (liquid jaggery):** 3 to 4 tbsp

**METHOD**

- Soak cashew and saffron in lukewarm water overnight.
- Peel the sweet potatoes and boil them. Once done, let it cool.
- Take the boiled sweet potatoes and soaked cashew in a mixer and add a little water to make a smooth paste.
- In a non stick saucepan, add the mix, keep stirring in low flame until it reaches a smooth texture.
- Then add saffron and nolen gur. Once everything is incorporated, let it cool.
- Your diet dessert is ready to serve.
- You can decorate with rose petals.

Contributed by **Ratna Chakraborty,** Hyderabad

## DR VIVEK ARORA

*The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi.*

**My 10-month-old male indie mixed breed kitten attempted to vomit twice, making hacking sounds, but was unsuccessful. What could be causing this, and what steps should I take?**

When a kitten attempts to vomit and makes hacking sounds without being successful, it could be caused by several factors. One common reason is hairballs, particularly in long-haired kittens, as they often struggle to clear hair from their system. These hairballs can cause discomfort and trigger coughing or hacking as they attempt to expel them.

**ASK AN XPERT**

Another possibility is gastrointestinal upset, which can lead to nausea and result in unsuccessful vomiting attempts. Additionally, mild respiratory issues could cause similar symptoms.

If your kitten continues to make these attempts without vomiting or displays other worrisome symptoms like lack of appetite, lethargy, or difficulty breathing, it's essential to consult a veterinarian. A vet will be able to assess the situation, determine the root cause of the problem, and recommend the proper treatment.

## FITBIT

### TADASANA PASCHIMA BADDHANGULIYASANA
(SHOULDER STRETCH HANDS BEHIND BACK INTERLOCKED)

This is a standing shoulder-stretch pose. It is included in beginners level yoga sequences, as it is safe and accessible for individuals at all fitness levels and ages. The interlaced fingers strengthen the arms, shoulders, upper back and neck muscles. It can be included in restorative or therapeutic yoga sequences. It is a quick-fix movement to relieve stiffness and tension from the back, arms, neck and shoulders, or cervical pain and symptoms. One can add a block or other similar prop between the palms to make it a fun stretching practice.

**STEPS**

- Release the arms from Palm Tree Pose Side Bend, and relax in Tadasana (Mountain Pose).
- After that, make yourself comfortable at the centre of the mat and close your eyes, relaxing your breath.
- Now, inhale and take the arms behind you, and interlock the fingers duly stretching the shoulders and elbows.
- Inhale again and take the interlocked fingers upwards, moving the shoulder blades carefully while slowly throwing the chest outwards in Shoulder Stretch Hands Behind Pose.
- This pose will reduce the stress around the neck and the shoulders and help open the chest and the diaphragm to bring in more oxygen.
- Bringing in more oxygen is essential here to help gain better breathing skills for further challenges on the physical front.
- You can remain in this stretch for about four to five breaths or more and make sure the stretch is done carefully without causing excess stretch to the lower abdomen.
- Finally, release the pose and then relax in Three Part Breath Mountain Pose.

**BENEFITS**

- Stretches shoulders, tones glutes and stimulates digestive organs.
- Since legs are softly engaged, it gently stretches the pelvis.
- Anterior chest opens, the torso expands and the diaphragm moves in its elasticity with a deep breath in the enhanced thoracic space.
- The hip opens with the abdominal twist. Engages muscles connected to the cervical spine.
- Helps strengthen the lower back and the neck and enhances the body posture.
- Releases and clears the blocked channels, especially at the base of the spine, pelvis, hips, and shoulders.
- Enhances blood circulation to the sacral parts of the body benefiting the endocrine system.
- Helps asthma patients to improve their breathing capacity and benefits senior citizens.
- Postnatal and pregnant women, senior citizens, teens, and kids can practice this restorative pose.
- Helps enhance muscle readiness and performance for the routine ahead.
- A warm-up yoga pose to prepare the body for more intense yoga poses/yoga flows.
- Improves shoulder flexibility and mobility, which can be beneficial for daily activities and sports.
- Stretches the pectoral muscles, correcting rounded shoulders and sunken chest.
- Relieves tension in the upper body commonly associated with prolonged sitting or poor posture.
- Improves circulation to the chest and shoulder, promoting overall cardiovascular health and reducing muscle stiffness.

**LIMITATIONS**

- Students with shoulder and ankle injuries, have recently undergone a hip replacement, knee and spinal surgery, lack of body breath connection, or weak shoulders and arm strength, should avoid this practice.

**By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai**

**EXPRESS CONNECT**

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

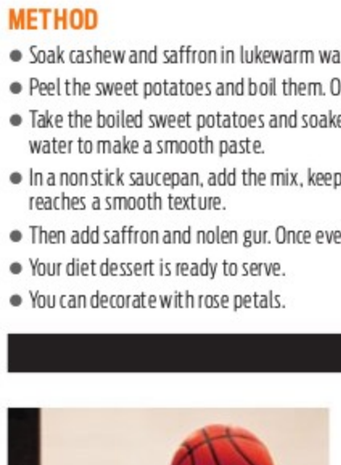
@XpressBengaluru/@tniefeatures
bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
@xpress_bengaluru

## WHATWHENWHYWHERE

### Basketball Fun

Join this 75-minute fitness and basketball event that promises to be a perfect blend of cardio, strength training, and basketball skills. This beginner friendly game is open to men and women of all skill levels!

**WHEN:** March 10, 6.45am
**WHERE:** MN Krishna Rao Park Basketball Court, Jayanagar
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



### Play with Puzzles

Bring your kids along for this relaxing evening of puzzles that will take you away from your screens and welcome you despite your age! This event promises to provide you with games such as speed puzzling or puzzle chess if you feel competitive!

**WHEN:** March 10, 6.30pm
**WHERE:** Underline Center, Domlur
**DETAILS:** district.in

### History Hour

Treat the history buff in you and join this masterclass to learn about four emblematic figures of 19th and 20th century Princely Mysore: the insurgent peasant, the reformed Devadasi, the defiant miner of Kolar Gold Field, and the nationalist rebel. **WHEN:** March 11, 6.30pm **WHERE:** Bangalore International Centre, Domlur **DETAILS:** bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

### Exhibition Evenings

Immerse yourself in this art and photography exhibition about the presence and erasure of women throughout centuries. Join in to gain a sociological perspective on the representation of women in art through a guided walk by Gita Chadha, a feminist sociologist.

**WHEN:** March 11, 5pm
**WHERE:** Museum of Art and Photography, Ashok Nagar
**DETAILS:** map-india.org

### Salsa Show

Kickstart your weekend immersing in a salsa concert presented by Archana and Raghuram and performed by their intermediate dance students in the city. Celebration of their dance journey, this two-hour event will showcase two solo salsa performances.

**WHEN:** March 10, 8pm
**WHERE:** Qube Cafe, Jayanagar
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

### Meditation Mondays

Been feeling a little stressed? Experience the healing power of meditation through a technique that promises to be beginner-friendly while having the capacity to reduce anxiety and enhance physical health.

**WHEN:** March 10, 7pm
**WHERE:** Namma Ashram, Whitefield
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

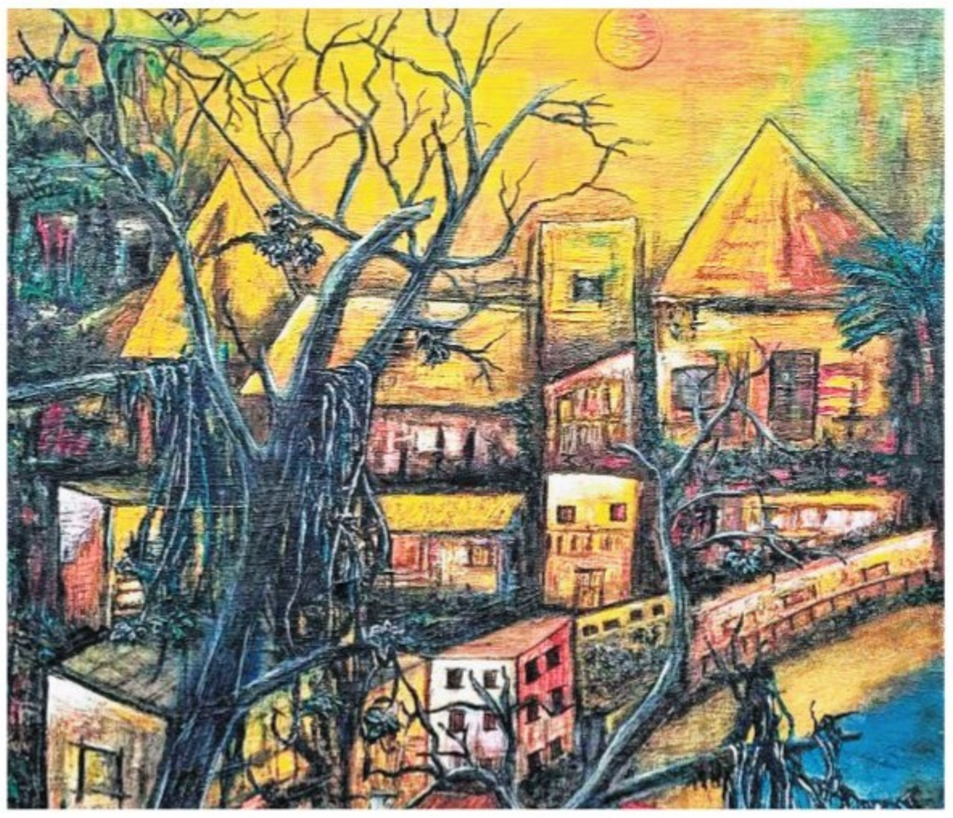
### Enjoy and Embroider

Learn the art of embroidery through this workshop where you can master the art of stitches and bring your botanical design to life! After the session, you can take home your own masterpiece with an embroidery hoop and extra floss to continue your journey!

**WHEN:** March 10, 10.30am
**WHERE:** Fired Up, Whitefield
**DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



## ARTCORNER



### ECHOES OF A CITY'S MEMORY

Artist Anurag Anand's 'Playing in the Sun' reveals how cities silently tell stories of past lives, advancements, and lasting memories

# SIMPLY SAMBAR

As another World Dosa Day (March 3) passes, *CE* takes a look at the origins and the different South Indian variants of the crispy crepe's favourite companion – sambar

AASHNA REDDY

THERE'S something about a hot plate of sambar rice, a generous drizzle of ghee on top, and a side of crispy chicken fry that takes us straight back to our school lunch breaks – elbowing friends for the last bite while debating whether Karnataka's sambar was superior to that of Tamil Nadu's!

South Indians claim sambar like it's their birthright, and rightfully so – it's on every menu, in every home, and probably running through our veins at this point. But what if we told you that there's a myth that suggests this beloved dish was actually invented for a North Indian king?

Legend has it that in the 17th century, King Shahaji of the Thanjavur Maratha dynasty wanted to whip up a batch of amti dal, a Maharashtrian staple. The problem? Kokum, the usual souring agent, was nowhere to be found. So, like any good cook on MasterChef, he improvised – swapping in tamarind instead. The result? A rich, tangy lentil stew that was allegedly served to his cousin, Chhatrapati Sambhaji, inspiring the name sambar (or Sambhache Ahar – Sambhaji's food). A fun story, sure. But is it true? Hard to say. Food historians argue that sambar, or at least its huli (spiced tamarind-lentil stew) equivalent, existed in Karnataka long before Shahaji's kitchen experiments. So, while we can appreciate a good royal origin tale, South India was probably already simmering up versions of this dish before a Maratha king took the credit.

Every South Indian state has a different take on sambar, and every household swears theirs is the best. They're all correct, of course, because every mother's sambar is objectively the best. At the end of the day, sambar isn't just a dish – it's a personality trait. Whether you like it thick or thin, tangy or sweet, one thing is for sure: there's no wrong way to eat it. For those of us who aren't bound by generational bias, let's take a quick tour of the sambar spectrum – plus, a few recipes to try at home from the natives.

## *Tamil Nadu:* The OG Arachuvitta Sambar

Tamil Nadu's version is thick, rich, and made with freshly ground masala. This is the one that hits different at weddings, temples, and anywhere someone's serving it with hot ghee on rice. Just bold flavours, perfectly balanced tanginess, and that one uncle saying, "Inga sambar vera level da!"

Here is Chitra Paati's Kumbakonam sambar:

"The secret? Freshly ground masala and not letting anyone else stir the pot." – Chitra, 75, keeper of family recipes.

**INGREDIENTS:**

- Toor dal: 1 cup (cooked until soft)
- Tamarind: 1 lemon-sized ball (soaked and pulp extracted)
- 1 small brinjal, 1 drumstick, 1/2 cup yellow pumpkin (or any combo of veggies)
- Mustard seeds: 1 tsp
- Curry leaves: 1 sprig
- Asafoetida: 1/4 tsp
- Dried red chillies: 2
- Ghee: 1 tbsp (for finishing touch)

**FOR THE SAMBAR POWDER:**

- Coriander seeds: 1 tbsp
- Chana dal: 1 tsp
- Fenugreek seeds: 1/2 tsp
- Dried red chillies: 2
- Peppercorns: 1/4 tsp
- Grated coconut: 1 tbsp

**METHOD:**

1. Dry roast the sambar powder ingredients, grind into a fine powder.
2. Heat oil, temper mustard seeds, curry leaves, asafoetida and red chillies.
3. Add vegetables, tamarind pulp, salt, and turmeric. Cook until the vegetables are soft.
4. Stir in cooked *dal*, ground masala, and a pinch of jaggery (Paati's trick). Simmer for 5 minutes. Finish with ghee on top. Serve with hot rice.

## *Karnataka:* The Slightly Sweet Udupi Sambar

Karnataka's Udupi sambar is where things get a little divisive – it's got a subtle sweetness, thanks to a pinch of jaggery. Raghavendra, an Udupi restaurant chef, defends it passionately: "You people don't get it – our sambar is balanced, refined. It's an art."

**RAGHAVENDRA'S UDUPI SAMBAR**

- **Secret ingredients:** Coconut, jaggery, and a more aromatic spice blend.
- **Best paired with:** Crispy, golden-brown dosas or vadas.

**INGREDIENTS:**

- Toor dal: 1 cup (cooked until soft)
- Tamarind paste: 1 tbsp
- Jaggery: 1 tbsp
- 1/2 cup diced pumpkin, 1 small brinjal, 1 drumstick
- Mustard seeds: 1 tsp
- Curry leaves: 1 sprig
- Dried red chilli: 1
- Asafoetida: 1/4 tsp

**FOR THE SPICE PASTE:**

- Coriander seeds: 2 tbsp
- Cumin seeds: 1 tbsp
- Dried red chillies: 3
- Grated coconut: 1 tbsp

## *Kerala:* The Coconut-Laced, Sambar

Kerala's sambar is what happens when a dish gets the full spa treatment – aromatic, rich with coconut, and bursting with flavour from varutharacha (roasted coconut) masala.

Here's Prameela's Varutharacha Sambar:

"If your sambar doesn't have roasted coconut, are you even from Kerala?" – Prameela, 60, Kochi's unspoken sambar queen.

**METHOD:**

1. Dry roast the masala ingredients until golden brown, then grind into a smooth paste with water.
2. Heat coconut oil, temper mustard seeds, curry leaves, asafoetida and red chilli.
3. Add chopped vegetables, tamarind pulp, and salt. Cook until vegetables are tender.
4. Stir in cooked dal and the roasted coconut paste. Simmer for five minutes. Serve with pappadam.

**INGREDIENTS:**

- Toor dal: 1 cup (cooked until soft)
- 1 small raw banana, 1 drumstick, 1/2 cup ash gourd, 1 small carrot (or whatever is in your fridge)
- Tamarind: 1 lemon-sized ball (soaked and pulp extracted)
- Mustard seeds: 1 tsp
- Curry leaves: 1 sprig
- Dried red chilli: 1
- Asafoetida: 1/4 tsp

**FOR THE VARUTHARACHA (ROASTED) MASALA:**

- Grated coconut: 2 tbsp
- Coriander seeds: 1 tbsp
- Fenugreek seeds: 1/2 tsp
- Dried red chillies: 2

## *Andhra Pradesh:* The Spicy Pappu Charu

Andhra folks don't have time for thick, slow-cooked sambar. They prefer pappu charu, which is thinner, tangier, and packs a spicy punch. Amulya Chokkalingam from Vijayawada says, "It's basically a hotter, better version of sambar. Sorry, not sorry."

- **Secret ingredients:** Tamarind, green chillies, and a suspiciously generous amount of garlic
- **Best paired with:** Hot rice and a serious appetite

**INGREDIENTS:**

- Toor dal: 1 cup (cooked until soft)
- Tamarind paste: 1 tbsp
- Green chillies: 2, slit
- Turmeric: 1/2 tsp
- Mustard seeds: 1 tsp
- Curry leaves: 1 sprig
- Garlic: 2 cloves, crushed
- Dried red chilli: 1

**METHOD:**

1. Heat oil, temper mustard seeds, curry leaves, and garlic.
2. Add green chillies, dried red chillies, tamarind paste, salt, and turmeric. Let it simmer.
3. Mix in cooked dal and enough water to reach the desired consistency.
4. Serve with hot rice and a dollop of ghee.

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**
CHANGE OF NAME

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, (OLD NAME) SRIRAMA V**, residing at No. 447, Bhavaninagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, 100 Feet Ring Road, Near Kadirenahalli Underpass, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru- 560070, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SRIRAMA V to (NEW NAME) V SRIRAM DASARI** vide Affidavit Dated: 04/03/2025, sworn before Notary H.G.Padmanabha Rao, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, (OLD NAME) CHANDAN S**, residing at No. 447, Bhavaninagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, 100 Feet Ring Road, Near Kadirenahalli Underpass, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru- 560070, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) CHANDAN S to (NEW NAME) S CHANDAN DASARI** vide Affidavit Dated: 04/03/2025, sworn before Notary H.G.Padmanabha Rao, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, (OLD NAME) SUJIT MADHU DESHPANDE**, aged 42 years, residing at No.D-605, DNR Atmosphere, Varthur Main Road, Ramagondanahalli, Bangalore-560066, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SUJIT MADHU DESHPANDE** to **(NEW NAME) SUJIT DESHPANDE** vide affidavit dated 08.03.2025 sworn before Notary A.M.Rajasekar, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SIDDHARTHA SWAMIKANNAN PACKIYAM** S/o **SUBRAMANIAN SUPPAIAHA KASHI** aged about 59 years R/at No.06, 1st Floor, 5th Cross, Srirampuram, Bengaluru-560021 have changed my name to **SIDDHARTHA SUBRAMANIAN PACKIYAM** vide affidavit dated: 1/3/2025 Before Notary **Mohammed Hussain.K** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, SONA KUMARI LALIT KUMAR (OLD NAME),** aged 33 Years, W/o Naveen Jain, Residing at No 28/1, 2nd Floor, 17th Cross, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru 560002, Karnataka State, have changed my name to **SONA JAIN (NEW NAME),** vide affidavit dated 04/mar/2025, sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **SOWMYA .P**, aged about 41 years, W/o.Mr.Balappa B.U, residing at # 23, "Sneha Kuteera", 12th cross, 1st "a" Main, Near Soundarya Institute of Management, Soundarya Layout, Sidedahalli, Nagasandra, Bangalore – 560 073, have affirmed and confirmed that my name **SOWMYA.P** and **SOWMYA B.U** are referring to one and the same person i.e, myself and henceforth, I shall be known and addressed in all records and documents as **SOWMYA .P**, vide Affidavit dated 06.03.2025 sworn to before the Notary ***Mr.H.C.Thammannagowda, Bangalore***.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Gujjaiah D.S** son of Savukaiaha, Aged about 42 years, residing at 729, VBBS Layout, Sachidananda Nagar, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru South, Karnataka - 560 098, do hereby declare that, **Gujjayya D.S.** and **Gujjaiah D.S** refer to the same person, and there is no change in my identity. I hereby declare that my correct name is **Gujjayya D.S.** Vide affidavit dated 07.03.2025 sworn to before Anitha Bai, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru. Reg. No. 9391

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, (OLD NAME) V MARAKKA**, residing at No. 447, Bhavaninagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, 100 Feet Ring Road, Near Kadirenahalli Underpass, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru- 560070, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) V MARAKKA to (NEW NAME) V MARAKKA DASARI** vide Affidavit Dated: 04/03/2025, sworn before Notary H.G.Padmanabha Rao, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, (OLD NAME) MAYUKH RAJ S**, residing at No. 447, Bhavaninagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, 100 Feet Ring Road, Near Kadirenahalli Underpass, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru- 560070, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) MAYUKH RAJ S to (NEW NAME) S MAYUKH RAJ DASARI** vide Affidavit Dated: 04/03/2025, sworn before Notary H.G.Padmanabha Rao, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, (OLD NAME) SUNANDA KRISHNA RAO** W/o Late Madhu Raghavendra Rao Deshpande aged 63 years, residing at No.D-605, DNR Atmosphere, Varthur Main Road, Ramagondanahalli, Bangalore-560066, do here by declare that all the names i.e **(OLD NAME) SUNANDA KRISHNA RAO** and **SUNANDA DESHPANDE** are one and the same and refers to me only. vide affidavit dated 08.03.2025 sworn before Notary A.M.Rajasekar, Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I,**SIDDHARTHA SUBRAMANIAN PACKIYAM** aged about 59 years R/at No.06, 1st Floor, 5th Cross, Srirampuram, Bengaluru- 560021 My Father name is wrongly mentioned as **SWAMIKANNAN SELLA KANNAN** instead of **SUBRAMANIAN SUPPAIAHA KASHI** My Father Correct Name is **SUBRAMANIAN SUPPAIAHA KASHI** vide affidavit dated: 1/3/2025 Before Notary **Mohammed Hussain.K** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, SHEELA (OLD NAME),** aged about 50 years, W/o Rajesh Kumar Singhvee, Residing at No 10/1, Singhvee Villa, Krishna Rao Sindhya Road, Vasavi Temple Road Cross, V V Puram, Bengaluru 560004, Karnataka State, have changed my Name to **SHEELA RAJESH KUMAR (NEW NAME),** Vide Affidavit Dated 04/Mar/2025, sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Smt. USHA R NATH**, W/o Reghunadhan .P.S, age 57 years, R/at No.92, 1st Cross, 6th Main, 1st Cross, Sri Narayan Mutt, Near Shivagiri Township, Baiyappanahalli, Virgonagar Post, Bangalore-560 049 do hereby declare that before my marriage my name is **S. USHA KUMARI**, but after my marriage my name is changed as **USHA R NATH**, my correct name is **USHA R NATH**, vide affidavit dated 08.03.2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **C. GIRI BABU** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Vasanthi Sharma** D/o Mahalingam Vaidyanathan aged about 64 years resident of #Villa 36, Penisula Palmville, Dodda -thimmasandra Road, Sarjapura, Bangalore, Karnataka-562125, India, have changed my name from **VASANTHI** to **VASANTHI SHARMA** vide affidavit dated 06-03-2025 sworn before notary K. Velayudham, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, (OLD NAME) DEEPA S**, residing at No.447, Bhavaninagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, 100 Feet Ring Road, Near Kadirenahalli Underpass, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru- 560070, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) DEEPA S to (NEW NAME) S DEEPA DASARI** vide Affidavit Dated: 04/03/2025, sworn before Notary H.G.Padmanabha Rao, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, (OLD NAME) SHESHADRI V**, residing at No. 447, Bhavaninagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, 100 Feet Ring Road, Near Kadirenahalli Underpass, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru- 560070, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) SHESHADRI V to (NEW NAME) V SHESHADRI DASARI** vide Affidavit Dated: 04/03/2025, sworn before Notary H.G.Padmanabha Rao, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Kavitha Shankar**, W/o Satish.S, Residing at No.B.606, Siroya Environ Apartment SSA Road , Anandnagar, Hebbal, Bangalore -560032 have changed My name to **Kavitha Satish** vide affidavit dated:7.3.2025 Sworn before Notary Onkarappa. N.R, Bangalore

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, ANAND MURIGEPPA THAKKANNAWAR (OLD NAME),** Aged About 39 Years, S/o Murigeppa Bhimappa Thakkannawar, Residing at Badabyakud Village, Alaknur Post, Near Murugendra Temple, Raibag Taluk, Belagavi District 591220, Karnataka State, Today Camping at Bengaluru, have changed my Name to **ANAND THAKKANNAWAR (NEW NAME),** vide affidavit dated 08/jan/2025, sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **DUDAGI PRATIBHA**, W/o. Ramesh Kallappa Dudagi, residing at #4, 2nd Main, AMS Extension Layout, Bengaluru 560097, have changed my name to **PRATIBHA RAMESH DUDAGI** vide Affidavit Dated: 06/03/2025, sworn before Notary **GANGARAJU.B.N,** Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **Chanda Kumari Varma**, W/o R.K.Varma, Residing at No.225/226,NE Nisarga Layout, Harpanahalli,3rd Main,6th Cross, Koppa gate, Jigani Road, Bannerghatta, Bangalore-560083 have changed **Chanda Varma** vide affidavit dated: 7.3.2025 Sworn before notary Onkarappa.N.R, Bangalore

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, SRI. PRASANNA PRABHAKAR KULKARNI,** aged about 44 years, S/o. Sri. Praabhakar Bindurao Kulkarni, residing at: C-021, Amity Harmony Aparatment, Dwaraka nagar Layout, Uttarahalli Road, Channasandra, Bangalore Subramnyapura, Bangaloare- 560061, hereby declare that my daughter's names **"POORVIKA PRASANNA KULKARNI" and "POORVI"** belongs to one and the same person, henceforth, I have decided to continue my daughter's name in future as **"POORVIKA PRASANNA KULKARNI"** vide Affidavit dated 07.03.2025 sworn before advocate and notary RAVI, Bangalore

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, (OLD NAME) M VENKATADRI**, residing at No. 447, Bhavaninagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, 100 Feet Ring Road, Near Kadirenahalli Underpass, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru- 560070, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) M VENKATADRI to (NEW NAME) M VENKATADRI DASARI** vide Affidavit Dated: 04/03/2025, sworn before Notary H.G.Padmanabha Rao, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, (OLD NAME) VARSHINI S**, residing at No. 447, Bhavaninagar, Banashankari 2nd Stage, 100 Feet Ring Road, Near Kadirenahalli Underpass, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru- 560070, have changed my name from **(OLD NAME) VARSHINI S to (NEW NAME) S VARSHINI DASARI** vide Affidavit Dated: 04/03/2025, sworn before Notary H.G.Padmanabha Rao, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **MADHAV RAO THUMBLA** S/o **Chinna Venkat Thumbalarao** aged 43 Years R/at No. 572, 1st Floor, 24th Main 19th Cross, HSR Layout, 2nd Sector, Bangalore- 560102 have changed my name to **MADHAV THUMBLA** vide affidavit dated: 21/12/2024 Before Notary **K.V.mani** Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, RAJESH KUMAR MITHALAL SINGHVEE (OLD NAME),** aged about 55 Years, S/o Mithalal Singhvee, Residing at No 10/1, Singhvee Villa, Krishna Rao Sindhya Road, Vasavi Temple Road Cross, V V Puram, Bengaluru 560004, Karnataka State, have changed my Name to **RAJESH KUMAR SINGHVEE (NEW NAME),** vide affidavit dated 04/mar/2025, sworn before Notary Meer Hassan Balaguru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **MOHAMMED MUZAMMIL** PASHA, residing at #110, 3rd Main, 'H' Cross, Bismillah Nagar, Bengaluru 560029, have changed the name of my minor daughter from **ZADA FATHIMA to YUSRA FATHIMA**, vide Affidavit Dated: 07/03/2025, sworn before Notary **GANGARAJU.B.N,** Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
I, **ADITI SHETTY,** resident of No. 107, Olympus 3 Prestige Acropolis, Koramangala, Bangalore-560 095 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ADITI UDAY** to **ADITI SHETTY,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **ADITI SHETTY** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 8-3-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S. ESWARA REDDY** at Bangalore.

**CHANGE OF NAME**
**I, SRI. PRASANNA PRABHAKAR KULKARNI,** aged about 44 years, S/o. Sri. Praabhakar Bindurao Kulkarni, residing at: C-021, Amity Harmony Aparatment, Dwaraka nagar Layout, Uttarahalli Road, Channasandra, Bengaluru Subramnyapura, Bengaluru - 560061, hereby declare that my daughter's names **"PRASANNA PRABHAKAR KULKARNI" and "PRASANNA KULKARNI"** belongs to one and the same person, vide Affidavit dated 07.03.2025 sworn before advocate and notary RAVI, Bangalore

# MY COMEBACK IS STILL A BIG QUESTION MARK UNTIL I FIND THE RIGHT SCRIPT: RAMYA

The actor discusses cinema today, the need for strong women characters, ticket pricing, OTT, Rashmika Mandanna, and more

BIG INTERVIEW

A SHARADHAA

Ramya is one of the few heroines whose comeback is awaited by fans. The actor took a sabbatical with *Nagarahavu* (2016). Her recent hints about returning to films have excited her loyal following. While many hoped *Swathi Mutthina Male Haniya* would mark her comeback, Ramya clarified that it was planned for OTT, and she was aiming for a big-screen return. Though some projects, including *Uttarakanda*, didn't materialise, rumours are circulating about a potential collaboration with Yogaraj Bhat and E Krishnappa. Ramya confirmed that the talks are still in the early stages, with no official confirmation yet. With her production house, AppleBox Studios, working on a few projects, she teased about being involved as an actor and producer in one of them soon. We caught up with Ramya for a chat to discuss what cinema means today and how she plans her comeback.

Firstly, when quizzed if she regrets stepping away from cinema to enter politics, Ramya explains thoughtfully, revealing that this decision still troubles her mind. "It is something that plays on my mind," she says candidly. "Sometimes I think about the missed opportunities in films. Some of those films went on to become major blockbusters. But then I also remember what I gained through politics—the opportunity I received to serve the people, the same ones who gave me so much love and affection as a film star and continue to do so. How many of us get to do this? The amazing people I've met, and everything I've learned along the way, have shaped me into the person I've become today," she remarks.

A common refrain from Ramya has always been that there aren't enough good scripts, especially those featuring strong female characters. "I think there aren't enough stories about women in Kannada cinema," she says. "We lack a woman's narrative, especially in Kannada films. I want to work on stories that focus on strong, well-rounded female characters." This focus on female-centric narratives is not just a passing trend for Ramya but a matter of conviction. "Stories about the resilience and strength of women sensitise society, helping it become more empathetic and compassionate," she explains. "We're conditioned to perceive men and women a certain way. We attribute personality traits such as strength to men and vulnerability to women—we should rewrite that. This conditioning puts pressure on both men and women. It's far from reality."

> *Right now, our primary focus is on Kannada films. However, if the revenue potential is good, we may explore other languages as well*
>
> Ramya, actor

Discussing her time away from the industry, Ramya admits that things have changed significantly. "I've been away for a while. Now I'm catching up on all the films. There are so many good films out there," she says. "So much has changed—some for the good." However, there's one thing that she is struggling with: getting used to social media. "I don't want young girls to get too obsessed with a certain body type, face, or lifestyle," she says. "It's not something to aspire to. I try to keep it real."

Her openness to these roles is also part of her larger vision for the industry, which involves ensuring equal pay for heroes and heroines. Ramya has long been advocating for equal pay, and she emphasizes that it's an issue that persists across all sectors, not just in cinema. "We need to keep the conversation alive about equal pay for men and women. Women and men have to come together and ensure women are paid equally," she asserts.

Ramya encourages Kannada actors to find opportunities in other industries. "Artists should never feel confined to one language or industry," she posits, pointing to the example of Rashmika Mandanna, a popular actor who faced criticism for her move to other industries. "My heart goes out to her. The hatred she faces is a reflection of how petty we can be. I empathise with her," says Ramya.

While her return to acting remains a topic of discussion, her involvement in cinema is far from over. Through her production house, AppleBox Studios, Ramya has been working on projects that she hopes will reshape the Kannada film industry. "Right now, our primary focus is on Kannada films," she reveals. "However, if the revenue potential is good, we may explore other languages as well." But she also expresses her disappointment over the lack of support from OTT platforms for Kannada films. "I feel that the OTT platforms are not supporting Kannada films as much as they should," she says.

The recent announcement by the government regarding capping ticket prices has given Ramya hope. "Hopefully, with the tickets being capped at ₹200, we'll be able to bring the Kannada filmgoer back to the theatres," she says. "Watching films in multiplexes has become too expensive for the middle class. Entertainment should be more inclusive. Right now, it's only for those who can afford it. People prefer to wait for films to release on OTT because it's more affordable." Ramya also believes that piracy will decrease if the rates go down. "When the price is lower, people will be more likely to watch films legally rather than resort to piracy."

As Ramya's return to films becomes more of a possibility, she remains cautious but hopeful. "My comeback is still a big question mark," she says. "I'm actively listening to scripts, and I'm hoping to find the right one soon."

One thing is clear—Ramya is not just making a comeback for the sake of it. She is waiting for a story that aligns with her values and artistic vision, and her fans will undoubtedly be excited to see her return to the screen, no matter the timeline.

# A SWEET BREAK IN THE CHAOS OF YOUTHFUL LIFE

**INTERVAL**

**Cast:** Shashi Raj, Prajwal Kumar Gowda, Sukesh Sukhi, Sahana Aaradhya, and Charithra Rao

**Director:** Bharath Varsh

CE FEATURES

SOME films have the rare ability to capture the essence of college life, painting a vivid picture of youthful energy, the unbreakable bonds of friendship, and the relentless pursuit of dreams amidst the everyday struggles. *Interval* is one such film, effortlessly blending humour with heartfelt moments as it follows a group of childhood friends navigating their college years and post-graduation job hunts. Set in a rural village, it offers a refreshing take on the universal challenges of youth, education, and the daunting leap into the professional world. The film opens with a quirky yet heartfelt gesture: a special thanks to those who helped fund it. This genuine acknowledgement sets the tone of the struggles of filmmaking. The closing line, "You are responsible for your own dreams," ties everything together, echoing the choices, consequences, and unexpected *'intervals'* life throws at us.

Think of *Interval* as a metaphor. While we traditionally associate an *interval* with a break between two acts in a film, here it represents life's transitions. It's not about stopping; it's about those moments when decisions are made, futures are shaped, and destinies take surprising turns. The story begins in a quaint village where three childhood friends—Ganesh S (Shashiraj), Ganesh T (Sukesh Sukhi), and Ganesh U (Prajwal Kumar Gowda)—take us through school, friendship, and academic struggles. We can all relate to the anxiety of showing a not-so-great report card to our parents, getting our grandmother's thumbprint on it, and the universal dread of exams. Each of these three, with average grades around 60 per cent, faces the dilemma of whether to continue their studies amidst societal pressure questioning their abilities.

Sukesh Sukhi, a college lecturer who also wrote the screenplay and dialogues, brings his own college experiences to life. Directed by Bharath Varsh, the film strikes the perfect balance between humour and drama while staying grounded in the realities of rural life. When the trio enrols in mechanical engineering, the film recalls the chaos and charm of campus life, reminiscent of classic college capers. From ragging sessions to college friendships and even the creative ways of proposing love (using coriander leaves!), the film hits all the familiar notes. The universal struggle that unites them? Money. Whether pooling together for daily expenses or dealing with the financial pressures of education, the film subtly critiques the economic challenges students face.Filmmaking workshops

Then come the exams, humorously portrayed in *Interval*. A two-hour exam feels longer than an entire movie. The real kicker, however, comes with campus interviews. The film highlights the harsh reality of student life—rejection, pressure, and panic during those last-minute interviews, especially for those not comfortable with English. The humour here is biting and relatable, capturing the anxiety of stepping into the adult world, where talent often isn't enough.

Post-graduation, the trio heads to the city, convinced it's the land of opportunities. The contrast between village simplicity and urban chaos is striking. Here, they face the harsh reality of job hunting, dealing with expectations, and realising that success is more about influence than raw talent. The carefree boys now question their choices as they navigate a competitive world driven by power.

Just when city life seems like it might crush them, fate—through what the film calls 'God-given intervals'—pushes them back to their roots. This return isn't just physical but emotional. The warmth of family, the comforting embrace of home, and the grounding effect of one's origins take centre stage. In one of the film's most touching moments, the trio stands before Lord Ganesha, grappling with their failures and pondering what success truly means.

*Interval* is a story about youth—the fun, the folly, the fears, and the inevitable future. The film strikes a perfect balance between humour and drama, with spontaneous dialogue and natural performances from its leads. The trio's raw energy and camaraderie add an authentic flavour to the film, which remains light-hearted and engaging. They convincingly play carefree youngsters cruising through life on their bikes, unsure of what the future holds. The second half shifts tone slightly, becoming more serious, which could be trimmed to maintain a more fun outlook.

The film is further elevated by its music, courtesy of Vikas Vasishta, meaningful lyrics by Pramod Marvanthe, and the college and village youth atmosphere captured by Rajkanth SK's cinematography. Supporting performances by Sahana Aaradhya as Nisha and Charithra Rao as Sihi contribute to the story. The film stays true to its rural setting and characters, making it a refreshing departure from the typical urban-centric college dramas.

What sets *Interval* apart is its message. It connects with anyone who's ever found themselves at a crossroads in life, reminding us that the real test isn't in exams or job hunts—it's in the choices we make. As the film progresses, it becomes more dramatic, building toward a climax that leaves the story open-ended. The ending reinforces the title: Life's pauses and transitions are never truly over. The characters may be taking a break, but their path to finding responsibility is just unfolding.

# An intense and haunting love story that questions fate

**SOORI LOVES SANDHYA**

**Director:** Yadav Raj

**Cast:** Abhimanyu Kashinath, Apurva, and Prathap Narayan

CE FEATURES

THEY say, "Man proposes, God disposes." In *Soori Loves Sandhya*, divine intervention takes on an unexpected twist—helping only those who truly seek it. However, will it be enough to change their fates? This dark, haunting love story suggests that while the almighty may have a hand, it is ultimately humans' choices that truly decide their fate.

At first glance, *Soori Loves Sandhya* seems like yet another tale of love defying odds. However, beneath the surface lies a deeper narrative—one of sacrifice, pain, and an unsettling darkness that lingers beneath romance.

Soori (Abhimanyu Kashinath), freshly released from Bangalore Central Jail, is on a singular mission: to find Sandhya (Apurva), the woman he loves without reason. However, love in this world is never that simple. When power and prestige dictate relationships, the battle becomes much more than a fight for love. Sandhya's brother, Gadda Viji (Pratap Narayan), is a political force rising through the ranks. For him, his sister's love is nothing more than an inconvenient stain on his ambition.

What begins as a journey to reunite with his lost love spirals into something far more complex. Soori retraces Sandhya's painful steps and, through a hidden letter, uncovers the depth of her suffering. She waited, yearned, and believed in their love—only to be met with the silence of his imprisonment. However, time, as always, changes everything. The Sandhya that Soori finds isn't the same woman he once knew. Lost in temple rituals and burdened by time, her once-vibrant spirit now seems dimmed. Still, Soori, with unwavering determination, dreams of taking her to Kedarnath for their long-awaited union. Yet, fate—grim and unforgiving—has other plans.

The film shifts between past and present, navigating longing, loss, and sacrifice. Art, devotion, and faith pull the lovers closer, while ambition, power, and family honour keep them apart. As they struggle to stay together, violence—both physical and emotional—becomes an ever-present shadow. The story avoids typical "caste cliches," yet the rich-versus-poor dynamic still lingers. At times, emotions run high, but the storytelling occasionally feels disjointed. The reliance on violence, while impactful, can sometimes overshadow the narrative's emotional depth.

Abhimanyu Kashinath delivers a refined, intense performance. He balances action and drama, making Soori a character you root for despite the chaos around him. Apurva brings a quiet yet powerful intensity to Sandhya, portraying her transformation from a hopeful lover to a woman burdened by circumstance with sensitivity. Pratap Narayan, as Gadda Viji, embodies his character's ruthless political ambition with conviction, though the role occasionally feels predictable.




Director Yadav Raj treats this intense, sensitive subject with care, capturing the intersection of love, power, and status. The story may follow a familiar path—love clashing with ambition and familial duty—but it raises a crucial question: Does love truly exist in a world where status and power dominate everything? The story, at times, meanders, yet it soon comes back on track and maintains its flow.

The film's most unsettling aspect arrives late—a raw, unfiltered moment of brutality that shifts the emotional weight of the story. This moment is not just about love, power, or politics—it is about something far more primal and disturbing.

While the narrative may feel familiar, *Soori Loves Sandhya* still brings something fresh. When the power of love is often questioned, this film reminds us that some truths—especially the brutality faced by women—cannot be ignored. It gives voice to a struggle that goes beyond love, delving into the painful realities faced by women who, even in the presence of those they love, still live in fear for their safety.